

“Defending Our Father’s Honor”
 Logikos Apologetics

AMAZING GRACE

Part 4 of 7

“Religion verifies Christianity”

Romans 3:28

(Updated 7.5.11)

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“Therefore we conclude
 that a man is justified by faith
 apart from the works of the law.”
 Romans 3:28

[Justified invisibly by God in man’s spirit]

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“You see then that a man
 is justified by works,
 and not by faith only.”
 James 2:24

[We cannot see a man’s faith, only actions.]

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Good Shepherd Initiative
 Education, Counseling
 Logikos Apologetics
“De Oppresso Liber”

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Defending our Father’s Honor

Introduction: Why should you be able to defend your beliefs about both our good God and suffering?

1. **Logic** verifies **God** (John 1:1)
2. **Science** verifies **Creation** (Romans 1:20)
3. **History** verifies **Scripture** (Luke 1:1-4)
4. **Religion** verifies **Christianity** (Romans 3:28)
5. **Prophecy** verifies **Jesus** (Luke 24:25-27)
6. **Time** verifies **Judgment** (Hebrews 9:27)
7. **Action** verifies **Faithfulness** (James 2:20)


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This 7 part, 500 slide presentation is just an introduction

... to encourage your own further study

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* Remember last session's comparison of other religious "writings"



- **Science?** only what/how
- **Hindu?**
 - Gita, Vedas, Upanishads
- **Buddhist?**
 - Dhammapada, Zen
- **Muslim?**
 - Koran
- **"Christian" Cults?**
 - Mormon, J. Witness
- **Philosophers"?**
 - Plato, Neitzche, Fromm
- **So many in man's history**

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The Serpent's Way = Independent "Works" vs. Dependence on God's Word & Work



- Genesis 3:1-6
 - "Now the serpent was more cunning
 - "he said to the woman, 'Has God really said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"
 - "You will surely not die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took and ate"

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Man's Works "Ways" = ALL Other Religions


EXAMPLES: (Simplified summaries for illustration)

- **Hinduism** – # sects yet all "works" (meditation, etc)
- **Buddhism** (Sid-hartha) 8 Fold Way of right living
- **Islam** – testify, prayer, alms, Hajj, Ramadan fast
- **Mormonism** – godhood by works (for men only)
- **R. Catholicism** – sacraments, deeds, indulgences ...
- **Philosophers** (Examples) Plato, Neitzche, Fromm, etc.
 - Confucius (right living and social harmony)
 - Humanists (by human "love" and cooperation)

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Specific Example of Works: Hinduism

Hindu serpent god – "Naga" →




- Reincarnation = evo-cycle of death/rebirth
- Karma = reap what you sow in rebirth
- Universalism – eventually all get saved
- Salvation = Moksha/Moksa/Mukti = ("release") from the cycle, then merge with "god-consciousness"
- 4 Works Ways (Yogas: Karma, Jnana, Bhakti, Raja)
 - Action (*selfless acts through religious rituals*)
 - Knowledge (*philosophical understanding*)
 - Devotion (*love for any of the 1,000's of gods*)
 - Mind over matter (*emptying of the mind*)

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Specific Example of Works: Buddhism


- The Buddha was Sid-hartha Gautama
- Karma, Rebirth, **Detachment** (Goal is Nirvana)
- 4 Noble Truths
 - 1. *Suffering exists*, 2. *It's caused by selfishness*, 3. *It can be ended*, 4. *By the 8-Fold Path*
- 8-Fold Path of Righteous Works
 - *Wisdom, Ethics, Mental Discipline*
- Middle-Way of moderation
- Monk protesting War in Vietnam →
- **1 Cor. 13:3 "If I give my body to be burned, but have not love [agape], it profits me nothing."**



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Buddhist Woman's Testimony:

- Works Won't Work -



I met a woman from Thailand who had converted from Buddhism to Christianity.

- As a young man, I thought all religions taught unselfish love, especially Buddhism. After sharing this with her . . .
- . . . she burst out laughing and said,
 - "Yes, they all teach love, but only Christ gives the power to live it!"



Worship

By His grace through faith, not our own "goodness".

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Specific Example of Works: Islam


- Mohammed → Koran → Polygamy
- Believe the OT/NT corrupted by man
- Predestination, Submission, Polygamy
- Five Pillars of Good Works
 - Testimony, Prayer, Fasting, Alms, Hajj
- Violence has characterized serious Islam from its start
 - Abuse of women is epidemic in Islamic cultures

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Example of Works: Mormonism

- Joseph Smith, was a treasure hunter
 - “Found/Lost” gold tablets and eyeglasses
 - Book of Mormon (*full of historical errors*)
- Pre-existence before birth
- Lucifer is brother of Jesus & his temptation of Eve was a good thing, allowing man to become like gods.
- Mormon Goal (men): to become gods on planets
 - godhood for the men, but eternal pregnancy for women
- Special Undergarments that cause special blessings
- Salvation is earned by good works and temple rituals




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Example of Works: Catholicism

- Most Catholics do not know that:
- Council of Trent, Vatican Councils 1 & 2, and the most recent “official” Catechism threaten “**anathema**” (*cursed to Hell*) if you: (http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)
 - Don’t Believe the wine & wafer are real blood/body
 - Don’t Believe the sacraments earn/buy grace
 - Don’t Believe Mary was sinless & ascended to heaven
 - Don’t Believe that buying indulgences earns grace, even for those already dead & supposedly in purgatory

“condemns with **anathema** those who say that indulgences are useless or that the Church does not have the power to grant them” (Vatican II, Vol. 1, p.71) Costello Publishing. Austin Flannery, O. P., Editor * With the **Imprimatur**.




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Works Example : Humanism

- Humanist Manifesto III - 2003
- Signatories included 21 Nobel laureates.
- Six Core Beliefs
 - “Knowledge ... by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis.
 - Humans are ... the result of unguided evolutionary change.
 - Ethical values ... from human need and interest
 - ... fulfillment ... from ... service of humane ideals.
 - Humans ... find meaning in relationships.
 - Working to benefit society ... individual happiness.”

*** Human works will save people & the world**

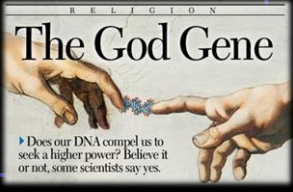


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Works Example : Evolutionary Psychology

- Allen MacNeill PhD teaches introductory biology and evolution at Cornell University
- “That’s where my “warfare” hypothesis comes in. As I suggest in my paper on the subject (“The Capacity for Religious Experience is an Evolutionary Adaptation for Warfare”, MacNeill, A. (2004) *Evolution & Cognition*, 10:1, pp. 43-60)
- As I have noted elsewhere, this results in what I have called “MacNeill’s Law”: *Religion facilitates warfare, which facilitates religion.*

The works of Psycho-science will save us from religion?

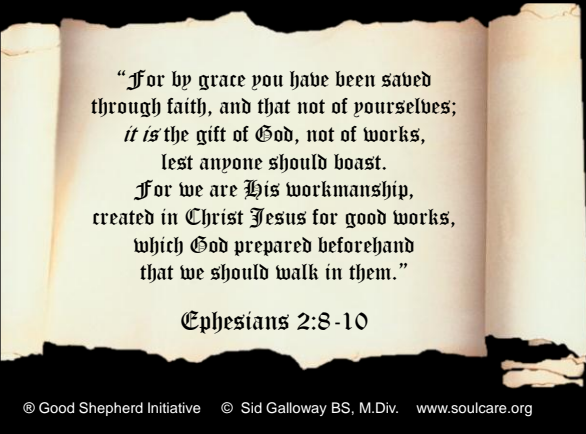


Does our DNA compel us to seek a higher power? Believe it or not, some scientists say yes.

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“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.* For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10



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JESUS / Yeshua / Christ / I AM / YHWH
Preexistence/Birth/Life/Death/Resurrection/Ascension

- **His Preexistence** – God the Son, One w/ Father/Spirit
- **His Birth** – God/Man come down to do what we can't
- **His Life** – Sinless, perfect love worthy of Heaven
- **His Death** – Substitutionary separation from Father
- **His Resurrection** – Proving His Deity
** Self-existent, so able to raise Himself from death*
- **His Ascension** – Worthy to rule as Lord (*exousia*)
- **His Gift** – The Holy Spirit to regenerate dying men, live intimately within them spiritually, transforming them into His image and character.

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In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."
Luke 22:20

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."
1 Corinthians 11:25

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The Blood represents the life/soul
(Nephesh / Psyche)

- **Man's Blood/Life Special to God**
(Man's suffering/death was never God's Way)
 - Genesis 4 Abel's blood/life precious to God
 - Genesis 9:1-7 Warning re: shedding man's blood
- **Nephesh Animal's Blood/Life Special to God**
(Animals' suffering/death was never God's Way)
 - Genesis 9:1-3 The first permission to eat animals
 - Lev 17:13-15 Compassion commanded for hunters

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God's Un-Natural Love – for Enemies

- **Proverbs 25:21**
 "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink..."
- **Luke 6:27** "But I say to you ..., love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ..."
- **Romans 5:6-8** "... When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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His Cross/Resurrection – Our Rescue

Man's Religions:
 "Good" Works are not enough
Romans 3:23; 6:23

Jesus' Relationship:
 His Perfect Work is enough - Mat 5:48

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Safe and Secure: Under God's Hand

1 Peter 5:5-7
 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may lift you up, casting all your anxieties on Him, because **He cares for you.**"

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His WAY = His Cross = His Good Work



Our Choice by
*His grace alone through faith alone,
 apart from our good works*

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**“And we all, with unveiled face,
 beholding the glory of the Lord,
 are being transformed into the same image
 from one degree of glory to another.
 For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”**

1 Corinthians 3:18

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What about people who've never heard?

- People before Jesus, and people now in remote areas?
- Rom 1:20 – all know they are responsible to “God”
(always by grace through faith in God’s saving work)

“Most [religions] preserve ... knowledge ... [we] can be restored ... through sacrifice [wages of sin is death]....
 “[any man] in his understanding [can have] a dim hope that God must have provided a Savior. ... [and] realize that he is unable to save himself and must rely completely on God to save him in whatever way He may have provided.” **p. 136 Morris PhD, *Infallible Proofs***

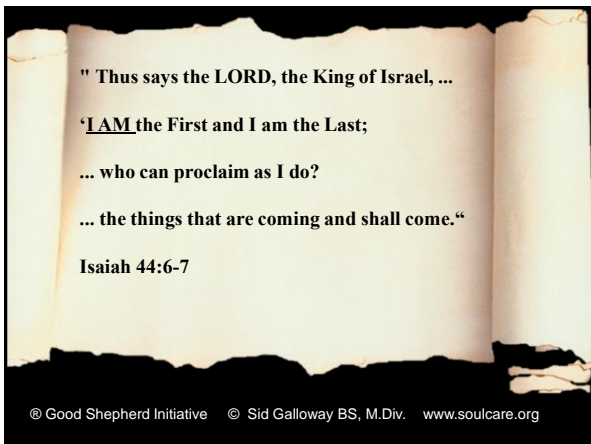
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A Hypothesis about God
 (Testable Prediction)

- **God in Isa 41:23 challenged false IDOLS:**
 “Tell us what the **FUTURE** holds,
 so we may **KNOW** that you are **gods**.”

Hypothesis:
If a *transcendent* Creator God exists
(transcendent means not limited by TIME/space),
then a “Book” from God should include:
 Predictions of the **FUTURE** that have proven to be
 100% accurate, therefore transcending **TIME**.

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" Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, ...
‘I AM the First and I am the Last;
... who can proclaim as I do?
... the things that are coming and shall come.“

Isaiah 44:6-7

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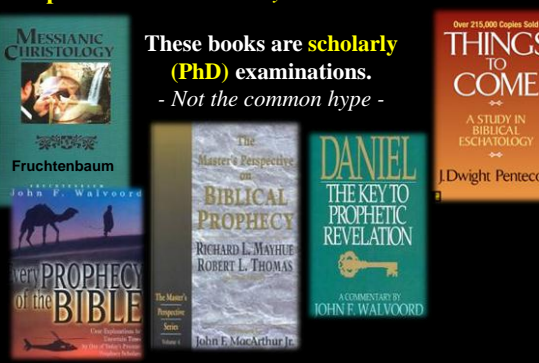
**Before Pilate condemned Jesus to death,
 he asked: “**What is Truth?**”**

- Some people claim “There is **NO** Truth”
 But how can their claim be “**true**”, if “**no truth**”?
- So, everyone assumes some things are true.

Is it possible that God has revealed His Truth?
 Jesus said “**I AM ... the Truth**” John 14:6
 (Exodus 3) God’s name: YHWH = “**I AM**”,
 from the Hebrew verb “to be” (self-existent) →

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Prophetic “Proofs” – Beyond Reasonable Doubt



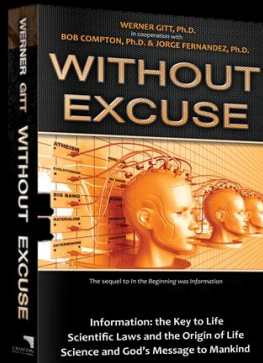
These books are **scholarly (PhD) examinations.**
- Not the common hype -

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Bio-Info

New Book
Werner Gitt PhD
Head of the Department of Information Science.
Later Director & Professor at Technology at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology.

More Books / DVDs
www.creation.com
See YOUTUBE



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Universal Information & the Bible

- “... many different texts [religious books] that are claimed to have divine origin. Is there an absolute test that can verify if a text is divinely inspired? Yes, there is such a test.”
- “... Scientific laws allow mankind to predict future events but only within a very limited range in time and space.”
- Werner Gitt PhD, *WITHOUT EXCUSE*, pp. 207-208

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Universal Information & the Bible – cont. ...

- “... if a text incorporates many predictions of future events that do occur despite intervening decades, centuries or even millennia of time, then that would be a clear sign of supernatural omniscience.”
- “... The one striking feature that distinguishes the Bible from all other world literature is , without doubt, the many prophecies that have already been fulfilled in time and space. ... [over] 3,000 prophetic statements ... fulfilled.... The Bible is peerless as will be shown in this section....”
- “**probability, P = 1.7 x 10⁻⁹⁸⁴**”
- Werner Gitt PhD, *WITHOUT EXCUSE*, pp. 207-212

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More Prophetic Proofs
especially Messianic Prophecies
(beyond reasonable doubt)
in the next session:

“Prophecy verifies Jesus”

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Defending our Father’s Honor

- Logic** verifies **God** (John 1:1)
- Science** verifies **Creation** (Romans 1:20)
- History** verifies **Scripture** (Luke 1:1-4)
- Religion** verifies **Christianity** (Romans 3:28)
- Prophecy** verifies **Jesus** (Luke 24:25-27)
* Next Session
- Time** verifies **Judgment** (Hebrews 9:27)
- Action** verifies **Faithfulness** (James 2:20)

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