Stoa Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #4



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

**Category 2: Foundations of Christianity (Part 2)**

8. What does the term “fall of man” mean, and why is it important?\*

9. How can a Christian have assurance of salvation?

10. Respond to the question: “Jesus said He would return soon. So, where is He?”\*

11. What is the importance of prayer?\*

12. What does it mean to walk by faith? Why is this important?\*

13. What does it mean to call Jesus Christ the “Lamb of God”? Why is this important?\*

14. What is the importance of the resurrection of Jesus?

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/stoa-apologetics/download-category/stoa-apologetics>.

Fall of Man

What does the term “fall of man” mean, and why is it important?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Assurance of Salvation *by Luis Garcia*

How can a Christian have assurance of salvation?

Bible Verses

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 16

Matthew 25:31

John 14

Romans 8

Ephesians 1:17-23; 2

Colossians 1:13-14

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5

1 John

1 Peter 1:3-12

Revelation 21-22

Quotations

“If Christ had not gone to the cross and suffered in our stead, the just for the unjust, there would not have been a spark of hope for us. There would have been a mighty gulf between ourselves and God, which no man ever could have passed.” - J.C. Ryle, *The Cross: A Call to the Fundamentals of Religion*

“Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way.” - A.W. Tozer

“God…will not lightly or easily lose His people. He has provided well for us: blood to wash us in; a Priest to pray for us, that we may be made to persevere; and, in case we foully fall, an Advocate to plead our cause.” - John Bunyan

Recommendations

*The Letters of John* by John Stott

http://gracequotes.org/topic/salvation-assurance-defined/

Commentary

What characterizes our assurance that we have salvation in Christ? What are the facets of our salvation in Him? How does it compare and line up to other worldviews? These are things to focus on. Controversy must be avoided. Emphasizing the peripheral issues that are trivial lose sight of the ultimate goal of apologetics. This is one of the questions I have seen people abuse. Please hear me. Be cautious, and I would highly suggest not getting into Calvinism vs. Armenianism, Once Saved Always Saved vs. You Can Lose Your Salvation, etc. Those are arguments that don’t really have no place in apologetics. Instead of having your personal opinions on minor theological issues at the focus, make Jesus the center of your focus. It is sufficient work of the cross that brings us assurance. Moreover, it is an apologetic approach in defining and defending the tenets of our faith to an unsympathetic audience.

A great book to study would be 1 John. A major theme in this epistle is John giving his flock is assurance and discernment of those who Christians and those who are not. He poses criteria and truths to evaluate themselves on whether they walk in the light and truth. In this, those who do not follow Christ will be revealed and convicted. Particularly in his context, those were the false teachers who had been causing much confusion to the church. The people who do follow Christ will find a love that casts out fear in John’s teachings, a great assurance in the grace of God. Meditate on this text. Let its words not only inform your speech, but may they bless your heart and the hearts of your listeners.

Jesus’ Return

Respond to the question: “Jesus said He would return soon. So, where is He?”

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Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Prayer

What is the importance of prayer?

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Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Faith

What does it mean to walk by faith? Why is this important?

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Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Lamb of God

What does it mean to call Jesus Christ the “Lamb of God”? Why is this important?

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Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Resurrection of Jesus *by Luis Garcia*

What is the importance of the resurrection of Jesus?

Bible Verses

[Psalm16:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm16%3A9-11&version=NIV)
[Isaiah 25:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+25%3A8-9&version=NIV)
[Jeremiah 32:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+32%3A17&version=NIV)
[Hosea 13:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hosea+13%3A14&version=NIV)
[Matthew 12:38-42](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A38-42&version=NIV)
[John 2:13-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+2%3A13-22&version=NIV)
[1 Corinthians 15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV)
[Revelation 1:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1%3A18&version=NIV)

Quotations

“Many people have died for causes they believe in. In the 1960s many Buddhists burned themselves to death in order to bring world attention to injustices in Southeast Asia. In the early seventies a San Diego student burned himself to death protesting the Vietnam War. In September 2001 several Muslim extremists hijacked airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon to inflict damage on a nation they consider an enemy to their religion. The apostles thought they had a good cause to die for, but they were stunned and disillusioned when that good cause died on the cross.” –Josh McDowell, *More than a Carpenter*

 “Christ never lost a battle even when He lost His life.” –William Gurnall

 “Jesus gave the greatest proof of His authority by accurately predicting His death and the time of His bodily resurrection. Of all people, the temple authorities should have been alert to His promise, but they never dreamed that it would actually come to be. They were sure it was an empty boast. The fulfillment of that prediction reveals the uniqueness of Jesus above all contenders.” –Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus among other gods*

Recommendations

<http://carm.org/dictionary-resurrection>

<http://gracequotes.org/topic/jesus_christ-resurrection/>

Commentary

Without the resurrection, Christianity is no different than any other worldview. Why? Because all of the significant figures that founded the belief systems are mere men that are now in the grave. But Christ is much different. He is not dead, but has risen and lives forever more. All the question is asking is how the resurrection is an essential pillar to what we hold true. What does it found? If the resurrection did not occur, what would crumble in our faith? What would crumble in us?