Apologetics and Beyond

Season 23



# A Newer Approach

Since becoming a coach and a judge since 2005, I have loved Apologetics. It is the most important event in my mind as it gets to the true heart of why we do, well, anything, which is to do all to the glory of our great God. Over the years, I have also seen some issues in terms of a good understanding of the orthodox faith, including the nature of God, Scriptures, the nature of man, etc. It seems that this event is geared more toward a six-minute speech for competition rather than a knowledge that culminates in an increase of our faith.

Therefore, I want to embark on some changes in my approach to how I teach and coach Apologetics. First, I want to focus on a good overall grasp of the nature of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the reliability of the Scriptures, and the Nature of Man. While I agree that both leagues have a great set of questions, I question whether writing 6-minute answers is effectively translating to a fuller understanding of Christianity. My aim is to provide everyone who goes through this course the ability to more adequately answer not just the current questions, but to come to know our God personally, and intimately.

I also want you to compete well, write great cards, and win tournaments. However, to me, this is more of a secondary goal. Consequently, if all you have to show for Apologetics is a trophy, and maybe a scholarship, I will not have done my job well.

God is alive, is knowable, and He loves you beyond what you could ever comprehend. You can confidently cast your cares on Him because He cares for you. I want you to be excited about learning who this God is that we worship, and actively including Him in every aspect of your life; praying continually, giving thanks in all things, and growing in the knowledge, grace, and truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In other words, I want you to know Him, not just about Him.

Therefore, I have started a program, a podcast of sorts, called Getting to Know God (GTKG). I will plan to post audio recordings at least weekly, and more if I have time. These will be for anyone, not just Monument Members. So, if you know anyone who might benefit from these recordings, feel free to share them far and wide, whether they are in Speech and Debate, are students, adults, whoever.

My aim is to keep these sessions to 25-30 minutes, so there will be times when I will have to divide some lessons into 2 or more parts. I leave it to you as to how you apply these lessons to your cards, as well as to your life.

Finally, while these lessons will go some of the way in helping you get to know God, this is no substitute to reading through the Bible on a consistent basis. As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says,

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

But to take advantage of this profitable teaching, you need to drink daily from the well that is the Word of God. By just reading an average of 4 chapters a day, you can get through the whole Bible in less than a year. At a normal pace, it only takes 72 hours to read the whole thing. It isn’t so daunting really.

If you haven’t read God’s Word for some time, or at all, I challenge you to start today. Read even a little bit every day for 30 days. Then let me know what you have learned. And keep checking the Monument site for new episodes of Geeting to Know God. And together, let’s grow in our knowledge, belief, and trust in God.

Coach Vaughan