

## **Subject: Evangelism**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lecturer: *Charlie Haddad*

### **Module 3: The Proclamation of the Truth of the Gospel**

#### **Lesson 11: Contending & Confronting**

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:5-6

### **Introduction**

#### **A. Contending for the Faith**

*(Jude 1:3) "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*

- a. Here, Jude is addressing Christians who have decided to follow Jesus. If you have trusted Jesus Christ, you are in the Lord's army.

**Warren Wiersbe:** *"God is not looking for volunteers; He has already enlisted you! The question is not, "Shall I become a soldier?" Rather, it is, "Will I be a loyal soldier?"*

- b. When Isaac Watts preached a sermon on *1 Corinthians 16:13*, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you [act] like men, be strong.", he added in his sermon this poem.

*"Am I a soldier of the Cross,  
A follower of the Lamb?  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?  
Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease?  
While others fought to win the prize  
And sailed through bloody seas?"*



**(Colossians 4:5-6)** *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. (6) Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*

1. How do you know the Bible is true? It was written by men.
2. The Bible has been changed so many times. Why should I trust the Bible?
3. Is not Christianity all about making money?
4. What happens to all the people who have not heard the gospel?
5. What happens to little children/infants? Where do they go?
6. I don't believe that God exists; you cannot see Him.
7. If God created all things, then who created God?
8. Why does God allow people/children to suffer?
9. Why would such a loving God send people to Hell?



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### 1. **“How do you know the Bible is true? It was written by men.”**

**Please note:** Whether or not a person believes the Bible is true or not, I believe the Word of God will not return void.

- a. God used God-fearing holy men to write the Bible under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Holy Men were like pens in God's Hand!

**2 Peter 1:21** *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

**2 Corinthians 3:3** *“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”*

- b. There are sixty-six books in the Bible with about forty different authors and they agree without any contradictions. God used four men to write the four gospels. These men were eye witnesses of the living gospel, and each account is in harmony with the others. **1 John 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16**
- c. The fulfilment of Prophecy in the Bible proves the Word of God to be true. Many of these prophesies have been fulfilled already.

**Deuteronomy 18:21-22** *“And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? vs 22. When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”*

**Question to Ask:** *The textbooks that teach on evolution were also written by men. How do you know that the textbooks are right?*

## 2. **“The Bible has been changed so many times. Why should I trust the Bible?”**

- a. Right from the very beginning Satan wanted to cast doubt on God’s Word.

**Genesis 3:1** *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

- b. Amongst these other versions, God has promised to preserve His Word. In the English language, He has preserved it in the King James Authorized Version.

**Psalm 12:6-7** *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. vs 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*

- c. The Bible has not changed, people are the ones who add to it and take away from it.

**Proverbs 30:5-6** *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. vs 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”*

Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:18, 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; Revelation 22:18-19;

**Question to ask:** Why do the majority of the people in the world try to tarnish and undermine the Bible/Jesus?

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## 3. **Is not Christianity all about making money?**

- The Bible itself warns us about such people that will try to profit from the truth. Judas Iscariot was one of those people. – John 12:4-6

**2 Peter 2:1-4** *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. vs 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. vs 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. vs 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”*

**1 Timothy 6:5** *“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”*

**Question to ask:** Will you allow the sins of others to get your eyes off the truth?

#### 4. **“What happens to all the people who have not heard the gospel?”**

- God’s desire is for all to hear the gospel and come back to Him through Jesus Christ. This is one of the reasons why the Lord is delaying His coming.

**2 Peter 3:9** *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

**Matthew 24:14** *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

- **Note:** These people will become good missionaries. 😊

**Question to ask:** “Has not God allowed you to hear the Gospel today? What makes you think that He is not reaching others?”

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#### 5. **“What happens to little children/infants when they die? Where do they go?”**

- Little children/infants will be in Heaven.

**Matthew 19:14** *“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*

**2 Samuel 12:21-23** *“Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. vs 22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? vs 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”*

**Question to ask:** “What about you, where will you go when you die?”

## 6. ***“I do not believe that God exists; you cannot see him.”***

- a. God has revealed Himself through creation

*Romans 1:20* “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

- b. Behind every building there is a builder, behind every painting there is a painter, and behind every creature there is a Creator.

*Psalm 19:1* “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

**Question to Ask:** “Have you ever seen the people who built the harbour bridge? (NO)  
Do you believe that there were builders who built it? (YES)

So, you can conclude that you believe in the builders who you have not seen because you can see the building? (YES)

We are God’s handiwork; the world and the universe are a result of God Creation.

**Question to ask:** “Can you see the wind? Yet you can see the effects of it. Creation is the effect of God – It is His handiwork.”

**Question to ask:** If you could see God, would you believe in Him and follow Him?

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## 7. ***“If God created all things, then who created God?”***

- a. God is the only Creator, and He existed before the world began. Your finite brain cannot explain an infinite God.

*Genesis 1:1* “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

- b. God is eternal which gives Him the power to create and to give life.

*Psalm 90:1-2* “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. vs 2. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

*(Romans 11:33-34)* “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”

**Question to ask:** Do you think your created mind is able to comprehend The Creator?

## 8. “Why does God allow people/children in the world to suffer?”

- a. God’s creation was very good – perfect and without blemish, sin, lust, pride, defect, disease, suffering, and death; God’s Creation was a place of paradise, full of life and joy in His presence.

**Genesis 1:31** “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

**Genesis 2:16-17** “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: vs 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

- b. The world is no longer perfect but sin-cursed. Suffering and death now abound.

**Romans 5:12** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

- c. God cannot be blamed for the sinful actions of people. Man-kind must take responsibility for their own free-will choices in life.

- d. Notice what the Lord says about a person who becomes a child of God.

*Romans 8:16-18, 28; John 10:10-11; Revelation 21:4; 1 John 3:1; John 9:2-3*

**Question to ask:** Do you think God should be held responsible for the sinful acts of men? Would you like it if you were accused for someone else’s evil actions?

## 9. “Why would such a loving God send people to Hell?”

- a. Hell was initially created for the Devil and the fallen angels who have rebelled against God.

***Matthew 25:41** “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”*

- b. The difference between the devil/demons and man-kind is that God has given people a chance to repent, the opportunity to be “born again” or to be saved from the penalty of Sin

- c. Hell is also prepared for God-rejecters.

***(Psalms 9:17)** “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*

- d. Hell is prepared for those who reject Jesus as their Saviour.

***(John 3:18)** “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

- e. God takes no pleasure when people perish.

***(Ezekiel 33:11)** “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die...”*

**Question to ask:** If people choose to reject God and not receive His gift, whose fault is it?

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## 10. Things to Remember:

- a. **Let the Gospel be the focus.**

- Try to refrain from pointless debating
- Once you answer their question go back to the Gospel

- b. **Understand that there is power in the Word of God**

- Quote scripture even if they give the impression they do not believe in the Bible

***1 Corinthians 1:20-21** “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? vs 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*

## B. Confronting other Faiths

1. Catholicism
  2. Jehovah's witnesses
  3. Atheism
  4. Islam
  5. Judaism
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### 1. Catholicism

**a. What they Believe about Salvation:**

- Salvation is by grace and works.
- Sacraments are a part of their works (Catholicism)
- No one but God can be certain of who goes to Heaven.



**b. What the Bible teaches about Salvation:**

- Salvation is by Grace alone through faith.
- The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross is the only way to be Saved.
- A person can know for sure that they can go to Heaven.

**c. Main verses to use:**

John 6:28-29 – Ephesians 2:8-9 – Titus 3:5 – Galatians 2:21 – Matthew 7:21 – 1 John 2:4, 1 John 5:12-13.

**Question to ask:** If you can get to Heaven through good works, then why did Jesus Christ come to die for Sinners?

- d. Note: If a topic needs to be discussed in detail, talk about “who is the final authority.”**

### The Words of Jesus Christ/Bible vs. The words of the Pope/Church

- The aim is to get the person to trust the Word of God over the tradition of men. Most Catholics believe that what the Pope/Church says is Gospel, even if it adds to the Bible or even may cause a contradiction. This is because a false teaching has been developed in the Catholic Church by misusing the scripture in *Matthew 16:15-18*.

## **Matthew 16:15-18**

Key Words: Peter = Petros = a (piece of) Rock

Rock = Petra = a (mass of) Rock

**Note:** Throughout the Bible, Jesus/God is referred to as “the Rock”.

Key Phrase: “build my Church” - 1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 5:23

**Note:** Jesus is the Head of the Church, not the Pope.

Key Phrase: “upon this rock” – (refer to John 2:18-21)

**Question to ask:** In John 2:18-21, what was Jesus talking about when He said “destroy this temple”?

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## **2. Jehovah’s Witnesses**

### **a. What they Believe about Salvation:**

- Salvation is by faith and works.
- The Watchtower “*saved by both faith and works*”

([http://www.watchtower.org/e/19960201/article\\_02.htm](http://www.watchtower.org/e/19960201/article_02.htm))

- Jesus Christ is the way, but He is not God in the flesh.



### **b. What the Bible teaches about Salvation:**

- Salvation is by Grace alone through faith.

(True Works are the result of true faith in Jesus Christ/His Grace)

- The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross is the only way to be Saved.
- Jesus is God in the flesh

### **c. Main verses to use:**

John 6:28-29 – Ephesians 2:8-10 – Titus 3:5 – Galatians 2:21 – Matthew 7:21 – 1

John 2:4, 1 John 5:12-13 – Hebrews 9:14 – John 1:1, 14 – Isaiah 9:6 – Micah 5:2 – 1

Timothy 3:16

- ### **d. Note: If a topic needs to be discussed in detail, talk about “The Deity of Jesus Christ”**

### **Jesus Is Jehovah God in the flesh vs Jesus Is a Prophet**

- The aim is to get the person to trust the True and only Jesus Christ of the Bible. They need to see that the Jesus they are following is not the Biblical Jesus.

**Question to ask: How many Gods do you believe there are?**

**Isaiah 9:6**

Key Words: Mighty God = Jesus Christ

Everlasting Father = Jesus Christ

Wonderful Counsellor = Jesus Christ

Prince of Peace = Jesus Christ

**Question to ask: Who are these Prophecy descriptions in Isaiah 9:6 referring to? (Jesus Christ)**

**Main Verse to Cross Reference: Revelation 1:5-8**

**Cross reference these verses:** *Isaiah 43:10-11; John 8:24; John 8:58; Exodus 3:14; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 5:17-18; Colossians 1:12:20; Acts 14:15; Revelations 4:8-11; 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 20:28; John 1:1, 14; 1 John 5:7; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Revelations 17:14,19:15-16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 3:17-21; 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23; Psalm 18:31, 89:26*

**(John 8:24)** *"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."*