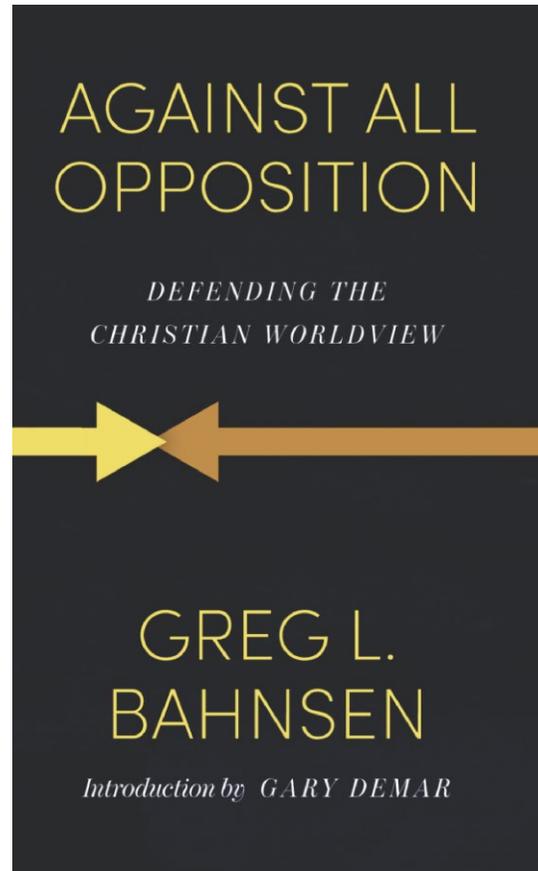


# Against All Opposition

Defending the Christian Worldview



## Study Guide

Book by Greg Bahnsen

Guide by Jake Litwin

Study Guide

Greg L. Bahnsen's [Against All Opposition](#)

**Week 1: Preface**

1. Define biblical apologetics.
2. What are the different ways apologetics is practiced?
3. What is the necessary operating assumption to practice biblical apologetics?
4. We derive the word “apologetics” from the Greek word *apologia*. What does the word mean and where did it originate from?
5. The way we defend the faith is as important as the \_\_\_\_\_ we use to defend the faith.
6. What are the five things the mind is designed by God to do when studying the Bible, creation, history, experience, and everything else with certain presuppositions?
7. If the apologists are not supposed to argue people into the kingdom, what is an argument’s purpose?
8. Why can’t an apologist use himself as the objective standard when defending the Christian faith?
9. In a biblical defense of the Christian faith, can God be on trial? Explain why or why not.
10. What does *neutrality* assume? Can a Christian apologist adopt a neutral position when defending the faith? Explain why or why not.

**Week 2: Chapter 1 — Faith or Reason?**

1. What have the unbelievers made up their minds about which is contrary to what the Bible teaches?
2. What is the Gideon strategy that unbelievers commonly practice?
3. Why is presenting the historical facts and evidence not enough to persuade unbelievers to Christianity?
4. What do most Americans consider to be “facts”? What is the word that defines this way of thinking?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–31. How do unbelievers naturally respond to the message of the cross and the wisdom of God? How is the “foolishness” of the message of the cross different from the Neo-orthodox theologians' indifference to logic?
6. There are many false definitions of faith, like Nietzsche’s definition, which is “not wanting to know what is true.” Read Hebrews chapter 11. Write out your own definition of what biblical faith is.
7. Read Acts 17:16–34. Why was Paul eager to reason with people about Jesus Christ? Does having reasons for your faith mean you don’t have it?

**Week 3: Chapter 2 — It Is Impossible To Think Without Presuppositions**

1. Who was René Descartes? What was the method he wanted people to follow for arriving at their beliefs?

2. Define the word “presupposition.” Why is it impossible to think without presuppositions?
3. Tackle the scenario: The unbeliever says, “You can’t try to prove something based on presuppositions. The problem is that you’re using the Bible to prove that the Bible is true. You cannot use the Bible to show the Bible is true. I use reason to show why atheism is true.” How would you respond and reveal to the unbeliever that he is using his own presuppositions as well?
4. Read Romans 1:18–21. If enlightenment thinkers believe that something is true simply by having evidence, why do they reject the evidence given by Christians?
5. Explain why every worldview claims to have *ultimate* authority. State the nature of *ultimate* authority.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Explain how the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God. How does this apply to unbelievers rejecting the *ultimate* authority of God?

#### **Week 4: Chapter 3 — Foundational Faith**

1. In 2016, Bill Nye, the so-called “Science Guy,” was open to the idea of putting “climate change deniers” in jail. He also said, “Skeptics of global warming suffer from the psychological delusion of cognitive dissonance.” The conclusion of this claim from his perspective is because the “evidence is overwhelming.” Using presuppositional apologetics, how should a Christian respond to this claim?
2. Read: **Facts Are Often In Dispute** (pages 47–49). What is a rescuing device? What causes unbelievers to use this when evidence is given to them?
3. Explain why facts don’t usually resolve conflict.
4. When unbelievers mock the miracles in the Bible (talking donkey, ax head floating, people being raised from the dead), why do Christians instinctively try to defend the miracle itself? What is the main issue with allowing unbelievers to decide on the validity of the evidence?
5. Can unbelievers be neutral in their interpretation of the evidence for God or miracles in the Bible? Why or why not?
6. According to Bahnsen, why should Christians not use evidence for miracles, or facts, to convince unbelievers of these miracles?
7. Read Isaiah 6:9–10 and John 12:37–41. Why did the people not believe in Jesus even after they had witnessed His miracles?

#### **Week 5: Chapter 4 — Reasoning As A Christian Should Reason**

1. Reflect on the story of the man who thought he was dead at the beginning of the chapter. Why is it impossible to examine beliefs singularly?
2. There is an assumption that when one wants to master Apologetics, one has to master every belief system that is against Christianity. How does Bahnsen refute this assumption?
3. Cornelius Van Til in his essay “Why I Believe In God” said, “When Eve in the garden of Eden became neutral as between God and the Devil, weighing the contention of each as though they were of equal value, she was already on the side of the Devil!.” What is the consequence of trying to be neutral and pretending to not have any presuppositions?

4. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7). According to Bahnsen, how does a Christian end up being a fool, despising wisdom and instruction?
5. Read Colossians 2:3–8 and 1 Peter 3:15. What are the consequences of not beginning with Christ (or setting apart Christ as Lord) as the foundation for all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?
6. Read Psalm 14:1. When the Bible calls unbelievers fools, is that questioning their intelligence? What is the biblical definition of being a fool? (See Proverbs 1:7)
7. Read Proverbs 4:5, 7. What does the word “philosophy” mean and what do these two verses emphasize about it?
8. How does Bahnsen define the Greek word *stoicheia*? What does Hebrews 5:12 say about these “elementary principles?”
9. What is the connection between Colossians 2:3 and verse 8?
10. Read Romans 3:4. Why must Christians be self-conscious about our ultimate authority being God?
11. Read Matthew 17:1–13 and 2 Peter 2:19. What is more certain in Peter’s testimony? Why is this significant?
12. Why must we learn to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ?

#### **Week 6: Chapter 5 — Unbelievers are Not Neutral and Christians Shouldn’t Be**

1. Give a few examples of unbelieving professors not being neutral.
2. G.K. Chesterton said, “An open mind is really a mark of foolishness, like an open mouth. Mouths and minds were made to shut; they were made to open only in order to shut.” What does he mean? How does this relate to Bahnsen’s conclusion about the choices we make without some standard?
3. Read Ephesians 4:17–20. What was the starting point of the Gentiles walking in wickedness that is not neutral?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. What are the two responses when sharing the gospel? What does this reveal about the myth of neutrality and the gospel?
5. What does it reflect about a person from his epistemology (how he knows what he knows) and his metaphysics (what he thinks about the nature of reality)?
6. Why is utilitarianism not neutral?
7. What are some examples of unbelievers borrowing moral capital from the Christian worldview?
8. What will the unbelievers’ accusation be towards God if they can all be neutral? How does this relate to Romans 1:18–22?
9. Is it sinful to be neutral? Read Luke 11:23, James 4:4, and 1 John 5:19.
10. Why are some people who hold a Ph.D. from prestigious colleges and universities considered to be fools in the eyes of God? What does the Bible say?

#### **Week 7: Chapter 6 — What is Philosophy?**

1. On pages 108–109, Bahnsen gives an example of an individual with a philosophical belief of humanity that homosexuals are “made that way;” on the other hand, he also

believes that the United States has a right to enact regime-change in other countries that have dictators. What is the philosophical contradiction in his worldview?

2. According to Bahnsen, what effect does the process of education have on us?
3. What questions are asked when studying metaphysics?
4. Read the following Scriptures: Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 46:9–10, John 3:36, and Romans 1:20. What do these Scriptures teach about metaphysics?
5. What questions are asked when studying epistemology?
6. Read Deuteronomy 29:29, Proverbs 2:3–6, John 8:31–32, and Colossians 2:2–3. What do these Scriptures teach about epistemology?
7. What questions are asked when studying ethics?
8. Read Exodus 20:1–17, Proverbs 11:1, Matthew 7:12, and Romans 13:8–10. What do these Scriptures teach about ethics?

### **Week 8: Chapter 7 — Challenges of Competing Worldviews**

1. How is spiritual monism in direct violation of the biblical view of the metaphysical world? How does this worldview attack the incarnation of Christ?
2. What do the idealists teach about the physical world? How does this worldview contradict the biblical view of the metaphysical world?
3. How is Stoicism another form of dualism?
4. How would a materialistic atomist define what love is?
5. What does Behaviorism teach about the human condition?
6. How does an egoistic hedonist exercise one's free will? How is egoistic hedonism the opposite of utilitarianism?
7. Give a few examples of existentialism in today's culture.
8. According to Bahnsen, what are the two things to identify when examining the worldview of the opponent?

### **Week 9: Chapter 8 — A Critique of Atheism**

1. What is the precondition of intelligibility?
2. Explain how all science rests upon the uniformity of nature.
3. Read the following Scriptures: Genesis 8:22, Jeremiah 33:20–21, and Matthew 5:45. What do they all say about the uniformity of nature?
4. Why do all probability arguments rely on the assumption of uniformity?
5. According to Bahnsen, why are atheists inconsistent in science?
6. Look up the definition of the laws of logic in the Glossary. How do Romans 11:6 and 1 Timothy 6:20 apply the laws of logic?
7. Why are there no such things as laws of logic in the materialistic (atheistic) worldview?
8. What do atheists appeal to when they claim any moral absolutes? Do atheists have any basis for any moral absolutes?
9. Consider the following question: "How can God send people to Hell even though they have never heard of Him before?" How would you respond to this question in light of Romans 1:20, 30?

### **Week 10: Chapter 9 — The Unbeliever Is A Believer**

1. Name the three concepts readers must understand to realize that an unbeliever is actually a believer.
2. What is the difference between believing and being able to justify that belief?
3. Give an example of an iterated belief from previous chapters.
4. Explain why the atheist chemistry professor's justification of the problem of scientific induction from an atheist worldview is a red herring.
5. According to Bahnsen, when an unbeliever cannot justify his beliefs, he's being arbitrary. What does Romans 1:18 ultimately say about the unbeliever?
6. What is self-deception?
7. Read Jeremiah 17:9, 1 Corinthians 3:18, James 1:22–26, and 1 John 1:8. What do these Scriptures teach about self-deception?
8. What is the problem with deconstructionism?

### **Week 11: Chapter 10 — A Quick Course In Comparative Religion**

1. Describe Plato's worldview of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.
2. How would one refute the idealist's worldview?
3. Discuss the emphasis of transcendent mysticism. Look up Leviticus 19:31 and 1 Corinthians 2:12–16. What do these Scriptures teach about going beyond a man's experience?
4. What question would a presuppositional apologist ask a person who holds to immanent moralism?
5. Read the following passages: Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10, and Isaiah 44:6. How do these Scriptures refute the polytheistic worldview?
6. The unitarian worldview rejects the biblical doctrine of the Trinity. Read the following Scriptures: The Father: Philippians 1:2; The Son: John 1:1, 14, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8; The Holy Spirit: Acts 5:3–4. What do these Scriptures teach about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? How do they refute unitarianism?
7. Discuss real-life examples of pseudo-messianic biblical counterfeits and how the Bible addresses them.
8. Buddha claims to not have any authority, on the other hand, he said, "I don't want you to believe what I'm going to tell you because I'm saying it. I want you to believe it because you experience it." How is this a contradiction? What questions would you ask to show the arbitrariness in Buddhism as they emphasize experience that will eliminate suffering?
9. How do all religions of immanent moralism run into the same kind of difficulty?

### **Week 12: Chapter 11 — Biblical Counterfeit Religions**

1. Proof texting is a common practice in Mormonism, taking Bible verses out of context to support their doctrines and teachings. For example, Mormons will use Psalm 82:6, which

says, “I have said, Ye are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High,” as a support to their polytheistic belief. Discuss how you would explain to Mormons what this passage actually means.

2. Joseph Smith claimed that God the Father had appeared to him as a man with Jesus Christ — the Father’s physical offspring. How does his claim contradict John 6:46 and 1 Timothy 6:16?
3. In regards to Smith’s encounter with the angel Moroni, what do Galatians 1:6–9 and 1 John 4:1–2 say about his vision?
4. Read Deuteronomy 13:1–5, 18:21–22, and Jeremiah 23:25–27. What do these passages say about the characteristics of a false prophet?
5. The following is a passage from the Book of Mormon: “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; **for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do**” (2 Nephi 25:23). What Bible passage is 2 Nephi 25:23 comparable to? How are these two passages a contradiction to each other?
6. From the Quran, Surah 3:64 says, “Say: ‘People of the Book, let us come to a fair agreement between us; that we will worship none but God, that we will associate none with Him, and that none of us shall set up mortals as deities besides God.’” What did Muhammad want Christians to do? How does Surah 3:64 show that Islam is a biblical counterfeit?
7. What do Mormonism and Islam have in common when the Bible conflicts with their “inspired” books?
8. Pseudo-messianic and modern-day evangelicals believe the Antichrist is a political figure, who’s going to come at the end of the world to make a covenant with Israel and deceive the world. Look up these passages that have the word antichrist: 1 John 2:18–22, 4:3, and 2 John 7. Who is the antichrist?
9. When Jesus prophesied that there would be the coming of these “false prophets” (Matt. 24:11), was He referring to the end of the world or His generation? Explain.
10. According to Josephus’ eyewitness account, what did the false prophets do in his time?

## Answer Key

### Preface

1. Biblical apologetics means “to offer a defense” (1 Peter 3:15).
2. The different ways apologetics is practiced by Christians are (1) to appeal to skeptics by presenting facts, or (2) to defend the faith using reason alone.
3. The necessary operating assumption is God exists, for without His existence, nothing makes sense.
4. The Greek word *apologia* denotes a speech made in defense, a reply made to an accusation. The word originated in the judicial operations of ancient Athens.
5. Method.
6. (1) Reason, (2) test, (3) investigate, (4) examine, and (5) accumulate knowledge.
7. An argument’s purpose is to expose the weakness of unbelieving thought and demonstrate the long-term consequences of being consistent with a position’s operating assumptions.
8. The apologist’s job is to testify to the truth and the standard of what is true is not himself but God.
9. God cannot be on trial because a finite, fallible, and fallen creature can never be a judge over the eternal God. The creature must never question his Creator (See Job 40:1, 4).
10. Neutrality assumes that man and God are on equal footing. Christian apologists do not have the option to adopt a neutral position because if we assume neutrality, we will be like them in their misguided assumptions and be classified as fools. The Christian worldview is not subjective; it’s not just one supposed legitimate opinion among many.

### Chapter 1: Faith or Reason?

1. Unbelievers have chosen a way of looking at the world — including how they know what they know and how they should live their lives — which is contrary to what the Bible teaches.
2. Unbelievers give the impression that they are familiar with what’s going on, that they know all the options, that they’ve read through all the books, and that they’re way ahead of the game.
3. The facts are not what separates a believer from an unbeliever but an underlying worldview.
4. Most Americans consider facts as that which you can touch and see. This way of thinking is empirical.
5. The message of the cross and the wisdom of God is folly to unbelievers. The world calls what we believe “foolishness;” it appears to be foolish, but it isn’t in terms of the operating assumptions of the biblical worldview. This is different from the Neo-orthodox theologians’ indifference to logic because Neo-orthodox theologians hold on to foolish beliefs simply because these things seem foolish or absurd, these theologians are being very religious in holding on to them.
6. Answers may vary. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).
7. Paul was eager to reason with people about Jesus Christ, not because there isn’t a place for faith, but because faith is not contrary to reason. Faith is the very foundation for reasoning to the point that those who claim that reason is the foundation for knowledge must have faith that it’s so.

## Chapter 2: It's Impossible to Think Without Presuppositions

1. Descartes was a philosopher who is often considered the father of the Enlightenment, and certainly the father of an autonomous spirit and philosophy. He was a French scholar, a theoretician who kicked off the age of reason. The method he proposed was to doubt and criticize everything you possibly could and accept nothing to be true that you did not recognize as true because it survived the method of doubt. If you can doubt it, don't trust it. But if you find something that you can't doubt then that becomes a starting point for knowledge.
2. Answers may vary. A presupposition is not just any assumption in an argument, but a personal commitment that is held at the most basic level of one's network of beliefs. Presuppositions form a foundational perspective in which everything else is interpreted and evaluated. It is impossible because every person has a logically basic set of convictions by which he thinks and lives his life.
3. Ask the unbeliever why does he use reason? As soon as he gives you his reasons, reveal to him that he is using his presuppositions in his reasonings. The unbeliever cannot live according to their own standards.
4. Unbelievers reject the evidence given by Christians because deep down they reject God Himself. They suppress the truth that God exists in unrighteousness, even though they know it in their conscience, for God has made the evidence clear. Unbelievers do not want to deal with a personal God, so they look for impersonal evidence as they suppress the personal evidence.
5. Every worldview has a standard and must appeal to that standard to remain consistent. The nature of ultimate authority is that it must prove itself.
6. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). The reason why unbelievers reject God and His Word is because the natural man cannot receive the spiritual things of God. Men are dead in their sins and are by nature children of wrath. They suppress the truth that God exists and regard the spiritual things of God as foolishness.

## Chapter 3: Foundational Faith

1. According to Bahnsen, "All argumentation terminates in some logically primitive starting point, a view or premise held as unquestionable." A Christian response to the claim is declaring that Bill Nye had already made a presupposition about his radical views on climate change and would interpret "the evidence" to make it fit his presupposition.
2. A rescuing device is coming up with a device for dealing with a fact that seems contrary to one's theory to rescue one's theory. What causes the unbelievers to use this is when their presuppositional claim is refuted.
3. Facts don't usually resolve conflicts because facts do not determine what people will believe, in other words, people don't believe things because the facts demand that they believe them. The underlying issue is not with the evidence but with their presupposition that denies God's existence and rejects the Word of God.
4. Christians are inclined to defend the miracle itself because we naturally think that if we simply show the evidence to these miracles, then unbelievers will definitely believe in them. We assume that facts — miraculous facts — will change their hearts, their thinkings, and their ways, but in reality, these facts won't change people's philosophies. The problem with this approach is we are making the unbeliever a judge over God. We have moved the standard from God to the unbeliever.

5. Unbelievers cannot be neutral because their interpretation of God or miracles is determined by their presuppositions, following their worldview, which is never neutral.
6. Christians should not use evidence for miracles to convince unbelievers of these miracles because they are spiritually dead, which means they will not see the facts for what they are.
7. The people did not believe in Jesus even after they had witnessed His miracles because God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts for His glory. For it is only by His mercy and grace that anyone can see and be saved.

#### Chapter 4: Reasoning As A Christian Should Reason

1. All beliefs are held in conjunction with each other, in other words, one cannot believe one thing without believing something else in addition to it. As Bahnsen tests this man's grouping of beliefs, Bahnsen shows that at the deepest level, the man thought he was dead; at a little higher level, he thought dead men don't bleed. Then, when he was shown that he bleeds, he gave up the higher level of belief and keep his deeper conviction that he was dead.
2. Bahnsen argues that the Christian apologist should prioritize mastering the fundamental issues of religious philosophy, instead of mastering all the information on false religions and cults. He needs to understand that everything boils down to people's fundamental convictions about the nature of reality and their underlying convictions about God and man and the relationship between them. Therefore, the most important thing the Christian apologist can do to defend the Christian faith is to learn how to think and reason as a Christian.
3. The consequence of trying to be neutral is one will automatically be using the unbeliever's presuppositions when trying to be neutral (page 67).
4. Bahnsen says, "If you will not begin with God as your open and operating presupposition — the living and true God, the God who reveals Himself in the Scriptures — if you do not make that your starting point, then you end up being a fool and you despise wisdom and instruction" (page 69).
5. The consequence of not beginning with Christ is there won't be any possibility of knowing anything.
6. The Psalter is not questing the unbelievers' intellect. The Bible defines being a fool as when a person is in denial of something he clearly knows to be true, for example, the existence of God.
7. The Greek word "philosophy" means the love (*philo*) of wisdom (*sophia*). These verses emphasize that God is the source of all wisdom and exhort us to "get wisdom" from God because it leads to understanding.
8. *Stoicheia* are the basic principles by which we learn. Hebrews says that the elementary principles, namely the oracles of God, are taught to the immature, so that they may go into maturity.
9. The treasure of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ, but we need to be aware that we can lose these treasures when we are taken captive by vain philosophy.
10. A lot of people hold to the fallacy of appealing to popularity, which believes that the majority is always right. However, Bahnsen calls this logical fallacy as epistemological democracy. Christians must not let contrary voices get in the way of the truth of God.
11. Peter says that the word of prophecy is more certain than his eyewitness experience of the transfiguration of Jesus. Bahnsen says that what we see to be fact will be governed by your presuppositions. Hence, this is why Peter's ultimate authority is not his eyewitness experience, but the word of God.

12. If we don't bring every thought captive to the Word of God, including how Christians should think about education, marriage, or family, we will be stripped of any wisdom we have and left with an indefensible worldview. Therefore, Christians are to see Christ in everything that we do and say.

#### Chapter 5: Unbelievers Are Not Neutral And Christians Shouldn't Be

1. Answers may vary. An example of unbelieving professors not being neutral is professors, who use one textbook rather than another, and they consider certain aspects of the field and a certain range of evidence relevant—that they look at some options and screen out others.
2. Just as the mouth was made to close, so an open mind should be closed. An open mind is meant to close in on truths, which results in having a standard and not being neutral. Bahnsen says, “When you apply that standard, you are indicating that you don't have a completely open-minded approach to the subject. You are discriminating. You are deciding that one thing is good or bad, more important or less important.”
3. The Gentiles' wickedness comes from the “vanity of their minds, darkened in their understanding”.
4. The two responses will either be (1) this message is foolish or (2) this message is the power of God. This reveals that when it comes to the Gospel or everything else, there is no neutral answer.
5. People's epistemology and metaphysics reflect their underlying philosophical commitment, which cannot be neutral.
6. Utilitarianism is not neutral because it establishes its own standard of what it thinks is true happiness and what is best for the world.
7. When an unbeliever says, “We're supposed to play fair or keep the rules,” he is borrowing moral capital from the Christian worldview.
8. The unbelievers' accusation is it is God's fault for not giving enough evidence to convince them of His existence or to make His existence clear. However, Romans 1:18–22 says that unbelievers do know God because God has made Himself known. Hence, the wrath of God is revealed against them.
9. Yes. If one is not for Christ, then that means he is against Him. To make one's standard equal to the world's standard is to be a friend to the world.
10. Because these people have suppressed the truth of God, whom they know exists, they became fools in their thinking.

#### Chapter 6: What Is Philosophy?

1. The contradiction is he believes that people are not responsible for their choices since they are programmed that way, while also believing that the United States have a right to change the leaders of other countries.
2. The process of education systematizes our curiosity and teaches us to reduce our experience of the world to generalizations. It is a matter of higher and higher levels of generalization, reducing the diversity of the world to law-like principles and generalizations.
3. What lies beyond the physical world? What is the nature of the world in which we live? Where did it come from? What is its structure? What things are real?
4. **Genesis 1:1:** God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. Creation had a beginning but God is everlasting (Psalm 90:2).

**Isaiah 46:9–10:** God is the only true God, there is no one else like Him. He has declared the end from the beginning. His counsel will always stand.

**John 3:36:** Those who believe in Christ have (present tense) everlasting life but those who do not believe have the wrath of God (present tense) abiding on them.

**Romans 1:20:** The creation of the world reveals God's attributes and power.

1. What is nature and what are the limits of human knowledge? How do you know what you know?
2. Deuteronomy 29:29: There is secret knowledge that belongs to God alone and knowledge that is revealed to us from God so that we may obey His law.

**Proverbs 2:3–6:** Those that seek after true knowledge will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For it is God who gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

**John 8:31–32:** Jesus says that those who follow His word will know the truth and the truth will set them free.

**Colossians 2:2–3:** Paul says that all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.

1. How should we live our lives? Can homosexuals help what they do? Can dictators and terrorists help what they do? Why or why not?
2. **Exodus 20:1–17:** The Ten Commandments reveal the standard of ethics that comes from God's Law.

**Proverbs 11:1:** God declares ethically that false judgments are an abomination but just weight and measures are His delight.

**Matthew 7:12:** Jesus declares that the Law and Prophets are to do what you would want people to do to you.

**Romans 13:8–10:** Paul's ethical exhortation comes from the law of God. God's ethical standards never change.

## Chapter 7: Challenges Of Competing Worldviews

1. Spiritual monism teaches that all is one, and the one kind of thing that everything consists of is spiritual in character, not physical, not material. This is in direct violation of the biblical metaphysic because God's Word teaches there is a spiritual realm and a physical (material) realm. This worldview clearly attacks the incarnation of Christ as it denies the material body of Christ.
2. Idealists grant that there is a physical world but say the physical world is organized and is known by the idea or types, the concepts that govern the physical world and lie outside of it. God is the Creator and organizer of the physical world and everything that is outside of it.
3. The Stoics believe that there is a kind of physical reality and a mental (spiritual) reality, but tend to be more moralistic.
4. A materialistic atomist defines love as a way of describing some kind of material process.
5. Behaviorism says that all human behavior is the theoretically predictable outcome of antecedent conditioning. We are conditioned in our home and by our society. We also don't have free will.
6. An egoistic hedonist exercises one's free will to live for one's own benefit, for whatever that will get one ahead. This is the opposite of utilitarianism because the utilitarian says that one should do what is in the best interest of most people, in other words, the greatest happiness for the greatest number is what should govern one's free will.
7. Example: People can decide whatever gender (or make up a gender) they want to.

## 8. The two things to look for are arbitrariness or inconsistency.

### Chapter 8: A Critique of Atheism

1. The precondition of intelligibility is what must be the case and what must be assumed to be the case (page 147).
2. If there were no uniformity in the natural world, then all scientific experiments would be a waste of time. You could learn everything you wanted about chemical interactions on Tuesday, but on Wednesday that information would be useless to you (page 149).
3. **Genesis 8:22:** While the earth remains, harvest, weather, seasons, day and night shall not cease. **Jeremiah 33:20–21:** Just as there is always day and night, so will God keep His covenant. **Matthew 5:45:** Jesus teaches that the sun rises on the evil and the good.
4. “If you don’t assume that the future will be like the past, all the probabilities based on the past are just wasted information” (page 151).
5. Atheists are inconsistent because they say with their mouths there is no God and there is just a random universe, but in their heart of hearts, they believe in regularity. They assume the uniformity of nature and are never worried that their next observation will be completely unexpected.
6. **Romans 11:6:** Paul concludes logically that if the election of grace is by works, then grace is no longer grace. But if it is of grace, then it is no longer of works. **1 Timothy 6:20:** “contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”. The laws of logic objectively conclude some things are contradictions, which Paul warns Timothy to look out for.
7. In the materialistic (atheistic) worldview, all human beings are simply chemical reactions and brain fizz. Laws of logic are immaterial, which means no one has it or can objectively claim them in a material worldview.
8. Atheists always have to appeal to something immaterial, outside of themselves when they make a moral claim. Ultimately, they would have to appeal to the personal God of creation. No, atheists does not have any basis for any moral absolutes.
9. Paul says clearly that everyone knows God exists and that’s why they are without excuse. Paul goes so far as to say in verse 30 that they are haters of God. People go to Hell for their sins and rebellion against God.

### Chapter 9: The Unbeliever Is A Believer

1. There is (1) believing, (2) justifying a belief, and (3) having a belief (or beliefs) about belief.
2. The difference between a belief and a justified belief is that one would need evidence to prove that belief. When one knows something, he believes it. If he has evidence for what he believes and can prove it, he has justified his belief. Hence, knowledge is justified true belief.
3. Answers may vary. One example would be: an atheist believes he can be morally objective as an atheist.
4. It is a red herring because the professor is answering a different question altogether, trying to distract the attention of the inquirer away from the original question.
5. **Romans 1:18:** says that the unbeliever is suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. Deep down they know the truth.
6. The definition of self-deception is the action or practice of allowing oneself to believe that a false or unvalidated feeling, idea, or situation is true.
7. **Jeremiah 17:9:** The heart is deceitful above everything else.  
**1 Corinthians 3:18:** Paul warns the Corinthians not to deceive themselves. Those who think they have become wise are fools.

**James 1:22–26:** James teaches that people deceive themselves of having true faith if they are hearers of the Word only but not doers.

**1 John 1:8:** People deceive themselves if they claim they have no sin.

8. The problem with deconstructionism is concluding every reading of a text is a misreading of the text because it is impossible to know the original intent of the author. As a result, all literary interpretation is simply one bringing one's own ideas into the text. Language then becomes a subjective tool and no longer what we usually call language.

#### Chapter 10: A Quick Course In Comparative Religion

1. Plato did not believe that the physical world was ultimate reality. This world is always changing and therefore it cannot be the object of knowledge (epistemology). Plato says the object of knowledge is not in flux, so the ultimate object of knowledge must be from another world, one that isn't like this changing world of time and space. All things, that are good, just, beautiful, and truthful by his standard, are in a realm of ideas. However, some things, that are not noble, don't need a form or idea.
2. One way of refuting idealists is by revealing their inconsistencies. Idealists claim to believe in absolute justice, love, and morality, but according to their worldview, everything is changing. Everything is subjective, which means that there can't be any absolute notion of justice that can be applied. And if there is no justice, then the world isn't going to be a pleasant place. The question for the idealists is then: "What's the relationship between your ideals and this world in which we live?"
3. **Leviticus 19:31:** God commands his people to not seek after outside spirits or thoughts who practice witchcraft because they will be defiled by them.  
**1 Corinthians 2:12–16:** Paul reminds the Corinthian church that we have been given knowledge through the Spirit of God and not from the spirit of the world. We are also to listen to words that are from the Holy Spirit and not from man's wisdom.
4. What is the source of what constitutes your ethical code?
5. **Deuteronomy 6:4:** The Shema is the declaration to Israel that there is only one God.  
**Isaiah 43:10:** God declares through the prophet Isaiah that He is God and that there was no God formed before Him or after Him.  
**Isaiah 44:6:** God declares that He is the First and the Last, besides Him there are no other gods.
6. We have established from the previous question that there is only one God. The Bible also teaches there are three distinct persons who are God.  
The Father: **Philippians 1:2:** Paul opens his letter to the Philippians by calling God our Father.  
The Son: **John 1:1, 14, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8:** John declares the Word was with God and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh, namely Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnate. Paul says that in Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily. The author of Hebrews writes that the Father says to the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever."
7. The Holy Spirit: **Acts 5:3–4:** Peter equates the Holy Spirit with God when Ananias lies.
7. Answers may vary. Jesus warns His disciples to watch out for false messiahs, for many will come in His name and will deceive many. See **Matthew 24:5, 23, Mark 13:22, and Luke 21:8.**
8. Buddha appeals as an authority when he tells you what to do, specifically to believe in personal experiences, but this is a contradiction to his claim of not having any authority. To show the arbitrariness in Buddhism of its emphasis on experience that will eliminate

suffering, the questions to ask would be: *Why* should I experience what you want me to experience? Why should I care about eliminating suffering? *Why* is it wrong to want to suffer?

9. Bahnsen says, “They cannot give an authoritative reason for living the way we are supposed to live”.

#### Chapter 11: Biblical Counterfeit Religions

1. When reading Psalm 82 in its entirety (vv.1–8), we see that it is about the unjust judges who will receive God’s wrath because of their wickedness. This is not a text that is talking about becoming a god or having multiple gods.
2. **John 6:46:** Jesus says that no one has seen the Father except the One (Jesus) who is from God.  
**1 Timothy 6:16:** Paul declares that God dwells in an unapproachable light that no one has seen or can see.
3. **Galatians 1:6–9:** Paul makes it very clear that if an angel comes and preaches another gospel he is to be accursed.  
**1 John 4:1–2:** John exhorts believers to test the spirits whether they are from God or not. We are not to believe everything we experience, but we are to test everything in light of what God has said.
4. If anyone comes in the name of God and speaks lies, gives signs, and deceives people to follow after other gods, he is a false prophet.
5. 2 Nephi 25:23 is comparable to Ephesians 2:8–9 that says, “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.” However, 2 Nephi contradicts Ephesians by saying that God’s grace is sufficient after all you can do. Paul says in Ephesians that grace is a gift that you cannot earn no matter what you do.
6. Muhammed wanted Christians to deny the deity of Christ and worship Allah as the one true God. Islam is a biblical counterfeit because it denies the deity of Christ and the Trinity.
7. Instead of starting with God's Word first as the authoritative revelation (Deut. 13 and 18), they argue that their books are the final revelation that are more authoritative than the Bible.
8. An antichrist is simply someone who denies Jesus, who has come in the flesh and is from God. There were not just one antichrist, but many antichrists in John’s day. John possibly had a leading false teacher in mind. Regardless, there is nothing in these passages that teach about a single antichrist, who will rule the world in the future. Antichrists are simply false religious prophets.
9. Jesus was speaking about the generation of His day when these false prophets would come. Jesus ended his prophetic teaching in Matthew 24:24 and Luke 21:32 with a warning that all these things would take place before this generation—the generation of Jesus’ day—would pass away.
10. Josephus documented that these false prophets deceived the people, asking them to get upon the temple and wait for God to deliver them.