

Always be prepared to give an answer...

It is essential for Christians to know what we believe and why. To be sure our reasoning is accurate it must be based on the Word of God.

- The Bible is a record of God revealing Himself. It explains His intervention in history and nature, and His arrival in this world as the God-man, Jesus Christ.

What is the inspiration/origin of the Bible? Look up: 2 Timothy 3:16

The Word of the living God is our instruction book for life and the final authority for what we believe.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" - 1 Peter 3:15

- The Creation of Man: God created man in His image in order to love and fellowship with us. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, our relationship with the Creator changed. And all are guilty (Romans 3:23; 6:23). And man cannot be "good enough" to make up for his sin (Isaiah 64:6).

- Satan - The Bible teaches that Satan is real. The Devil was once an angel who rebelled against the Creator. Satan instigates pain, sorrow, and spiritual death. He tries to lure people by tempting them to do what feels good rather than what is right.

Why is it that believers do not need to fear Satan?

Look up: 1 John 4:4; Revelation 20:10

Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-18. While these two passages are referring specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan. These passages describe why Satan fell.

- What is Salvation - The simplest definition of salvation is the gift of God's grace, where He provides forgiveness for our sins. Throughout the Old Testament, God-fearing people sacrificed animals to atone for their sins. This practice foreshadowed Christ's once-for-all sacrifice. Look up: 1 Peter 2:24 John 3:16

How is a person saved? Look up: Ephesians 2:8-9

Why is it impossible for someone to reject Jesus and still go to heaven? Look up: 1 John 2:23

- The Trinity - God consists of three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—but is one in essence. All three members of this Godhead (which is known as the "Trinity") have the same character traits but different functions.

Read: John 14:16-17, and Matthew 3:16-17 - Describe all three members of the Trinity in each passage?

Our heavenly Father is the Creator and is sovereign over everything. Look up: Romans 8:28

God the Son is Jesus Christ, who took on human flesh and came to earth to die for the sins of mankind. (John 14:9,10)

Read Ephesians 1:17-21 - Currently, where are these two members of the Trinity?

- God the Holy Spirit dwells within each believer from the moment of salvation (John 14:26,27; Ephesians 4:30). He enables us to fellowship with God, transforms the life of the believer, and produces good fruit through our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

- The Church - The church is the whole body of Christ—believers from every part of the globe. It is not a physical building and it has nothing to do with being part of a denomination. If you have trusted Jesus as your personal Savior, you are in the body of Christ. Why should members of the body of Christ do good works? Look up: Ephesians 2:10

Read Romans 12:3-16 - Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what He would have you do to support the body of believers.

- What is it that the church should be doing, according to Matthew 28:19-20?

- What does baptism represent? Look up: Romans 6:4

- Through Communion, we celebrate the forgiveness Christ gave us, His resurrection, and His future return.

- What did Christ say is the purpose of Communion? Look up: Luke 22:19-20

Every one of these is a vital part of the Christian's belief system, and they are all found in one place—the Word of God.