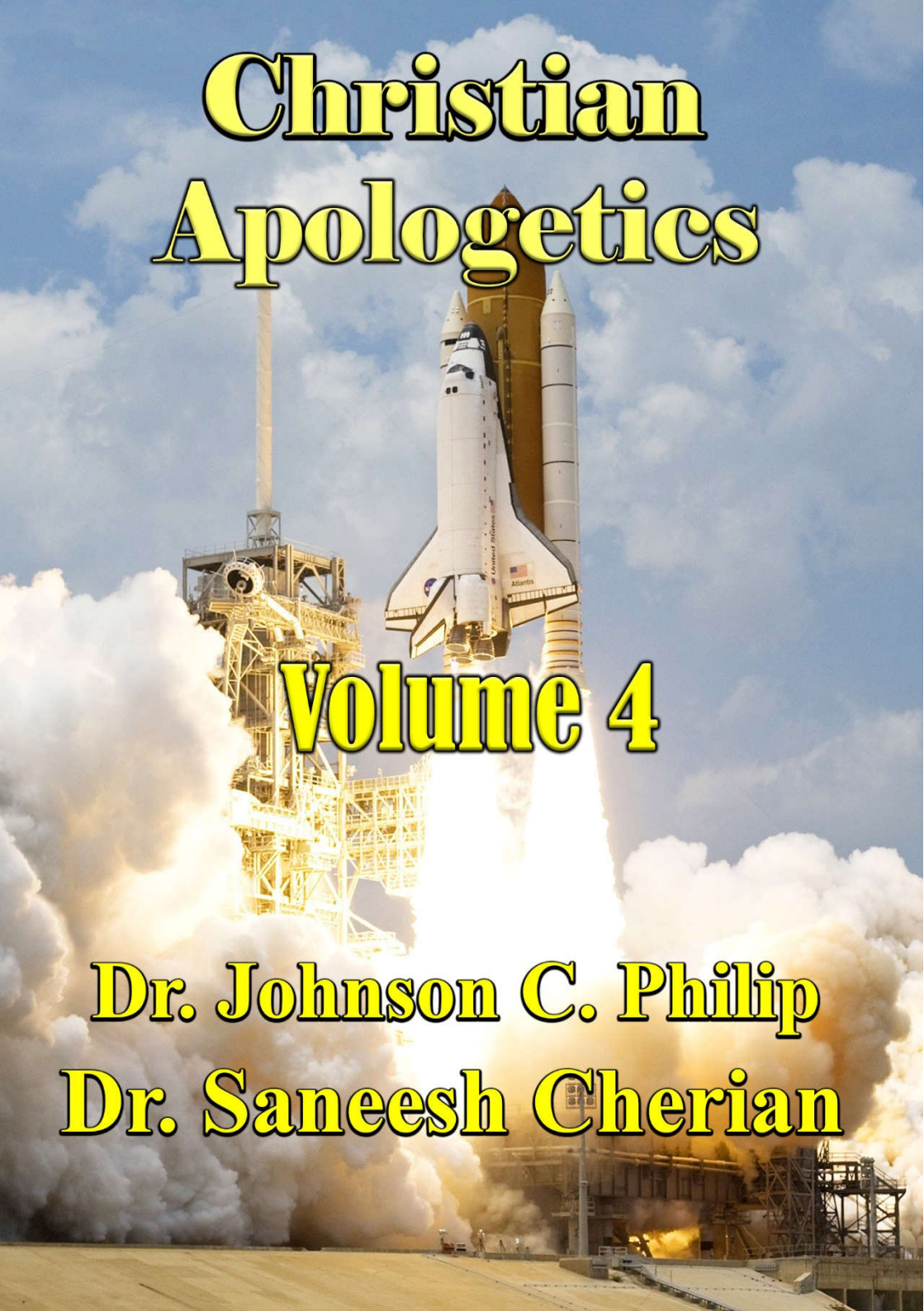


Christian Apologetics

A photograph of the Space Shuttle Atlantis being launched from the launch pad. The shuttle is white with a black nose cone and a large orange external tank and white solid rocket boosters. It is ascending vertically, leaving a massive plume of white smoke and fire behind it. The launch pad structure is visible on the left side of the frame. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Volume 4

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Christian Apologetics

Volume 04

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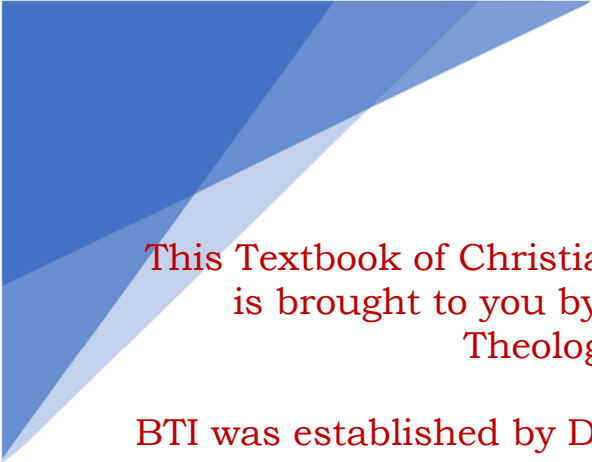
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Practical Value Of Studying Apologetics

Christian Apologetics as a distinct discipline of study and communication is at least two thousand years old now. Practical observation in these two millennia coupled with what the scriptures say has led to the recognition of many practical values of studying apologetics.

Conservation Of Own Faith: It is possible for a person to be a good believer in Christ but still remain ill-informed about problems in the real world. Many of these problems and movements attempt to question his faith, and therefore if he suddenly meets them one fine day, there is a high possibility of shock, surprise, and even withdrawal.

On the other hand, if a person has at least some idea about the challenges coming

from all kinds of errant movements, then he will be better able to face them when such an occasion comes. Spiritual life is warfare, and a person who has studied the enemy's tactics and terrains is better prepared for war than one who is ignorant.

Withdrawal from physical strain makes our bodies weak, while exercise and hard work makes our bodies strong. The same way, successfully facing the attacks against the Bible helps one's own faith to become stronger in the longer run.

Better Ability To Combat: The way in which the Christian faith has been attacked has changed from generation to generation. Some arguments come back to force in every generation while some are affective only in a certain period of history. At the same time, answers to these questions have been becoming more exact, refined, and powerful. No person can now

know the major lines of attack or the appropriate answers without studying apologetics.

A formal and systematic study of apologetics gives not only sufficient background, but also makes the person discerning as to which line of reasoning and answering is likely to have the greatest impact on the listeners.

Ability To Recognized Refined Enemy

Tactics: Every generation of critics is bound to raise up some new objections. A person who lacks preparation or background might suddenly find himself at a loss of words, but a trained person might be able to hold the ground even if the attack comes in a completely unexpected manner.

Actually, all accusations fall into certain broad categories. a person who has a systematic introduction to apologetics will be able to see the question and

immediately understand the category to which it belongs. He will therefore be able to hold his ground without a sudden loss of words.

Aid In Witnessing: In turn all of the above activities aid one's ability to witness powerfully for Christ. The resistance to the gospel from the rationalists has become very strong. (These days rationalists are found not only outside the Church but also within it). They exert considerable influence upon young minds.

Thus the young people come to the gospel with many doubts that block them from taking a leap of faith. However, a person having some background in apologetics can help this young person when he puts forward his sincere doubts.

Non-interest In Christian Apologetics

Among Christians there are some who do not take any interest and who do not give any encouragement to Christians interested in Apologetics. They do so not due to any fault of apologetics, but mainly due to their own misconceptions, and misunderstandings. Such people can be divided into six categories:

1-People who never had any doubts in these subjects.

2-People who never had to face questions and attacks from scornful people.

3-People who have indeed faced personal doubts and external attacks, but who have been running away from facing the challenge.

4-People who believe that the Bible does contain errors.

5-People who have lost sensitivity towards the pains and problems of others.

6-Pseudo Apologists who love prestige, but who have never mastered the subject.

Those Who Never Had Doubts: Of the above five categories, people who have never faced any problems are fortunate, but they should not assume that others will have a similar experience. Nor should they assume that others are having doubts because they lack spiritual commitment. A healthy person should never feel proud against a sick one. The right Christian response would be sensitivity and sympathy.

Those Who Never Had To Face Attacks: People who never faced any attacks against their faith from friends, coworkers or the popular literature have no justification to

assume that others are equally safe or insulated. In fact the majority of people among our young educated people face some sort or other of attack from their peers or contemporaries. Thus people need to be sensitive to their doubts, rather than ignoring their need for apologetics.

People Who Run Away From Ground Realities (Escapists): People who have faced doubts and external attacks, but who are running away from it all are doing great harm to themselves and also to others. Doubts and fears never decrease by avoiding them. These have to be faced objectively and courageously. Those who run away never develop a balanced or whole spiritual life. The fear they are trying to hide will gradually eat up their mental peace.

People Who Believe That The Bible Contains Errors: Some people believe that the Bible contains errors. They prefer diluting the historical and scientific accuracy of the Bible. They want the best of both the worlds (which in itself might be a legitimate desire), and feel that the Bible should be diluted to achieve this goal (which is a wrong assessment). Consequently many of them become quite hostile when they spot anyone defending the Bible.

People who believe that the Bible contains errors become panicky when someone defends the Bible. Unfortunately, and unknown to many of us, there are plenty of these people within the Christian world. They get annoyed when someone starts talking of a literal creation, historicity of the Bible, or anything that seems to imply that the scriptures are beyond error. They are spiritual compromisers, and they will surely

attack anyone who takes a non-compromising attitude.

People Who Are Insensitive To Others:

Some people become spiritually so insensitive to other believers that even the slightest mention by others of their spiritual problem or doubts provokes great anger, hostility and contempt from them. Since apologetics starts with the assumption that people can have problems and difficulties in believing the Bible, any mention of this subject acts as a great provocation to insensitive people.

People who have become insensitive towards the needs and pains of others are never able to appreciate the problems faced by others. Most of such people live in an artificial world of their own selfish creation, where they never have to be sensitive to the needs of others. Thus they become more and more hardened towards

others who face real-world problems and dilemmas.

Pseudo Apologists: The Christian world has many pseudo-apologists. Usually these people have some qualification in the sciences or humanities, but very little training in apologetics. When faced with troubling questions, they use their own human knowledge to build up a private system of apologetics. Not having a background in theology or apologetics, and not having come in contact with Christian apologists, their private system of apologetics might be quite deficient or even outright faulty. Yet due to non-contact with real bible-based apologetics, they continue to live happily with their own brand of apologetics in their world of ignorance.

Many of them recognize this deficiency as soon as they hear the presentation of a

trained apologist. Thus they feel quite threatened when they listen to apologists. Instead of broadening their grasp of the subject by mutual interaction, they take recourse to attacking other apologists.

Of the six categories of people mentioned above, none has a valid biblical objection against the discipline of Christian Apologetics. Their objections and oppositions stem from their personal prejudices and ignorance. Consequently, the apologist should never worry about the opposition they put up. Rather, he should always expect some antagonism from them and try to use these to examine and refine further his presentation of the subject.

People who believe that the Bible contains errors, who are insensitive to others, and who would not like anything except their own private system of apologetics find their world collapsing when they see Christian

Apologists in action. This is not a problem of theological origin. Rather, it is a personal problem that has no easy solution. Further, these people are not truth-seekers or sincere inquirers. Their aim is to impose their erroneous views upon others, and therefore their conversation is not marked for humility or the spirit of free, objective inquiry. Rather, their aim is to impose their erroneous views upon others. Thus it is a waste of time arguing or discussing with them.

The first three category of people above might readily listen to a good apologist if he is willing to explain the whole situation to them -- that a lot of genuine seekers are indeed struggling due to these questions, and also that they should not run away from their own doubts. However, the last two categories (the compromisers and the spiritually insensitive people) may not listen all that easily. One should be quite

discerning when talking with them lest one end up wasting time and losing patience.

The Lord Jesus Himself provides a good example that proof seekers are not to be shunned. When doubting Thomas demanded proof of resurrection, the Lord did not refuse his request. Rather, at the appropriate occasion he Himself personally, and with all compassion, invited Thomas to attempt his empirical verification.

The Lord did say that "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believe", but surely this was not a rebuke for doubt but only a comparison of insights that different people had about Lord Jesus. This becomes very clear in the light of what the Lord Jesus did to other disciples even without their asking.

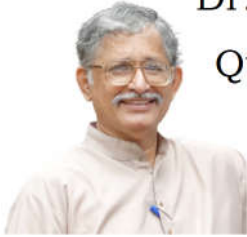
Most Bible readers overlook the fact that the Lord Himself was the first to offer empirical evidence to ALL the disciples, even without the disciples asking for it. The

gospel says, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself : handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39).

Doubt about spirituals is common even among dedicated Christians. If such people are sincere, one should surely help them by emulating what the Lord did with Thomas and the rest of the disciples.

The authors have worked hard for countless hours to prepare this series of eBooks for FREE distribution. You can say “thanks” by forwarding this eBook to all your friends, relatives, and church members!!

About The Authors



Dr. Johnson C. Philip is an expert in Quantum-nuclear Physics and has done research about the inner structure of Protons and Neutrons (Hadrons). He has doctorates in Theology, Alternative Medicine, Archaeology, and Communication also. He has authored hundreds of books and he hopes to join hands with Dr. Saneesh Cherian to produce a large number of ebooks.

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The two writers have jointly authored several major hardbound books in Apologetics and Theology, Theology Dictionary and Bible Encyclopedias.

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