

EBF

Evidence Based Faith

The Ancient Path

Recap

1 in 4 people self identify as a none

The nones — people who are unaffiliated with brand-name religion — are the new major force in faith. And they are more secular in outlook — and “more comfortable admitting it”

Recap

Acts 2 vs Acts 17, James E. White

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, **as you yourselves know.**” Acts 2:22

“May we know what this **new teaching** is that you are presenting? You are bringing some **strange ideas** to our ears, and we would **like to know what they mean.**” Acts 17:19-20

some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to **hear you again** on this subject.” vs 32

Recap

How much faith do you need?

51%

Immediately the boy's father
exclaimed, "I do believe; help me
overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24

Three Views of the Western World

Greek

descriptive and explanatory

the Greek way of examining the world
has an emphasis on rationality

Aristotle-once you had defined a thing
you had exhausted its essence

Greek questions look for shape,
substance and definition

Three Views of the Western World

Latin

method and process

Latin examination of the world is how
does this work? (mechanism,
functionality)

What are the inner workings of a thing

Three Views of the Western World

Hebrew

The Hebrew mind was concerned with what something was for and then does it work? (use, utility and value)

Thus you can read the four biographies of Jesus (Gospels) and never get a physical description

**The Bible is the most
remarkably preserved
ancient document in history**

**The ancients guarded the
writings then and
throughout history**

**Luke 1:1-4: inaccurate accounts
circulating**

2 Thessalonians 2:2: verify authenticity

**“report or letter supposed to have
come from us, saying that the day
of the Lord has already come. “**

2 Thessalonians 3:17: Pauls mark

**“I, Paul, write this greeting in my own
hand, which is the distinguishing mark
in all my letters. This is how I write.”**

Ancient Manuscripts

Secular MS	Date Written	Copy	Span	Copies
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Thucydides (History)	460 - 400 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	5
Aristotle (Philosophy)	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	5
Caesar (History)	100- 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Pliny (History)	61- 113 AD	850 AD	750 years	7

Biblical Manuscripts

MS	Date Written	Copy	Span
Magdalene Ms (Matt 26)	1 st c	50-60 AD	co-existant(?)
John Rylands (John)	90 AD	130 AD	40 years
Bodmer Papyrus II (John)	90 AD	150-200 AD	60-110 years
Chester Beatty Papyri (N.T.)	1 st c	325-350 AD	275-300 years
Codex Sinaiticus (Bible)	1 st c	350 AD	300 years

There has **NEVER** been any
historical, anthropological or
archeological discovery to bring
into doubt the narrative of the Old
and New Testaments

"We're moments away. I think the culture is already there. And the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defence," Rob Bell

**‘When I use a word,’ Humpty Dumpty
said in rather a scornful voice, ‘it
means just what I choose it to mean—
neither more nor less.’**

**‘The question is,’ said Alice, ‘whether
you can make words mean so many
different things.’ ‘The question is,’ said
Humpty Dumpty, ‘which is to be
Master—that’s all.’**

**Post-Christian is the exploring of faith
beyond the confines of scripture**

Two Major Themes of Post-Christian

God is love

**a loving God created me therefore
my choices or preferences are
condoned by him/her**

The bible is a metaphor

**the bible is an ancient document
that was never meant to be taken
literally and is to serve as one way
of finding meaning**

“To stay away from Christianity because part of the Bible’s teaching is offensive to you assumes that if there is a God he wouldn’t have any views that upset you. Does that belief make sense?” Timothy J. Keller

You can wrestle with the message of the bible but you will find it difficult to modify because of its internal consistency

“The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly.”

Søren Kierkegaard

“No man ever believes that the Bible means what it says: He is always convinced that it says what he means.”

George Bernard Shaw

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means **caring for orphans and widows** in their distress and **refusing to let the world corrupt you.** James 1:27

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart (emotions)** and with all your **soul (choice)** and with all your **mind (reason).**’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40