



Rooted and Grounded in the Faith

Colossians 1:9-23

Rooted and grounded

- Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven..
- Col 2:6-8 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Building a Strong Faith

— Jude 20-21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

- Three key areas of faith
 - What we believe
 - How we think
 - How we live out our faith

Faith under Pressure



- Ricky Gevais (“Why I’m an Atheist”) Wall Street Journal
 - “I don’t believe in God because there is absolutely no scientific evidence for his existence and from what I’ve heard the very definition is a logical impossibility in this known universe.”

Faith under Pressure



- Joe Rogan (The Joe Rogan podcast)
Religion is an emotional crutch
 - “People find great comfort in these belief systems. I’ve often said it gives them a scaffolding for their structure of the world, their ethics, and their morals. They can use religion as some sort of mechanism to help them get by, something that they can climb on to ease the confusion of the unknown.”

Faith under Pressure



- Joe Rogan (HBO “Real Time with Bill Maher) Religion is harmful
 - “Religion, it stops people from thinking because they think all the answers are in that one book; it impedes progress; it justifies crazy people. Flying into buildings was a faith-based initiative.”

Talking points

- There's no evidence for God's existence
- People who believe in God do so in spite of the lack of evidence
- Science and religion are mutually exclusive
- Belief in God is just plain silly (ancient gods)
- Not just silly, but harmful (such belief should be eradicated from society)

The Existence of God

- Evidence for God's existence in the natural world
 - “Naturalism” (belief the natural world is all that exists)
 - Carl Sagan (PBS Cosmos series: “the universe is all that is or ever was or ever will be”)
 - Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God
 - Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because what may be known of God is manifest in them for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen..”

Evidence in the natural world

- The cosmological argument
 - The universe began to exist
 - Everything that begins to exist has a cause
 - The universe must have had a cause
 - The best explanation that the universe began to exist is that something or someone beyond nature caused it to exist

Evidence in the natural world

— The design argument

- The complexity in nature is best explained by the existence of an intelligent agent (“designer”) rather than by chance processes
- Cells containing DNA with information to direct our functioning (works like a computer code or language)
- The “fine tuning” of the universe (our home on earth is structured in exactly the ways necessary for life to exist)..
Gravitational force holds stars together, earth orbits sun at perfect distance for water to exist

Evidence in the natural world

- The moral argument
 - Moral standards, intuition tells us certain things are wrong
 - Where do these come from if there's no higher authority?
 - If the universe is all that exists, there can be no moral law
- Science reveals the detailed workings of the world which points back to its designer (this is good news)
 - There is a purpose to life, we are no accident
 - We matter, how we live matters

Two other attacks on faith

- The progressive church (adopting secular culture)
 - “The Bible reflects man’s understanding of God in the time it was written; it’s not God’s final say for all time”
 - The Bible is a valuable spiritual tool, but it’s not authoritative on who God is, what He’s done or what He wants
 - Progressive Christians eliminate items secular culture has a problem with (hell, atonement, sexuality, gender roles)
 - Main values they champion: love and social justice (we need to be a voice for the marginalized)
- The progressive gospel (rather than our need for a Savior, it is primarily about secularized “love” and “justice”)

Two other attacks on faith

- High profile deconversion stories
 - Abraham Piper (Tiktok 1 million followers..300 videos mocking the Christian faith he grew up with)
 - Homeschool mom Janet (sharing her doubts and new perspective as a nonbeliever)
 - “Deconstruction”: taking faith apart to explain the process of walking away from Christianity with no plan to return
 - Process.. Crisis, moving to doubts, becoming an atheist, coming out as an atheist, presented publicly not only to inform but also to persuade others of problems of Christianity

Seeking truth

- Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear
- Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.



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