

Westlock Gospel Chapel – December 4, 2016

John 1:1-14 – The Eternal Word

December 11 – The Creative Word

December 18 – The Incarnate Word

John 20:30,31 - John's gospel is written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God

1) People need to see that there is a God

a. Philosophical arguments

i. Cosmological – the existence of the world is evidence for the existence of God

1. Everything has a cause
2. A causal chain cannot be infinitely long
3. There must be a first cause

God himself – Genesis 1:1, Job 38:4-7, ...

ii. Teleological – design implies a designer

1. The universe shows marks of design, such as complexity
2. The chance of these being random is 0
3. There must be a designer

God himself – Romans 1:20,21

iii. Ontological – inherent awareness of deity

1. If greatest possible being exists intellectually, must exist in reality
2. Otherwise, an even greater being must exist
3. There must be an inherent awareness of deity

God himself – Ecclesiastes 3:11, Jeremiah 24:7

iv. Anthropological – mankind's image

1. Basic moral standards - i.e. a conscience
2. A yearning for God
3. These must have their origin and cause in ...

God himself – Acts 17:26-30

b. Non-philosophical arguments

i. Evidences – christianevidences.org

1. Archaeology - e.g. Pontius Pilate
2. Manuscripts – e.g. patristic writings
3. Fulfilled prophecy – e.g. Tyre, Ezekiel 26
4. Historicity – e.g. Josephus
5. Scientific – e.g. hydrologic cycle – Ecclesiastes 1:6,7

Pleiades – Amos 5:8

6. Miracles
7. Revelations
8. Faith

2) People need to see that Jesus is God – cf. Lee Strobel, The Case for Christ

- a. The eyewitness evidence – can the biographies of Jesus be trusted?
- b. Testing the eyewitness evidence – do the biographies of Jesus stand up to scrutiny?
- c. The documentary evidence – were Jesus' biographies reliably preserved for us?
- d. The corroborating evidence – is there credible evidence for Jesus outside his biographies?
- e. The scientific evidence – does archaeology confirm or contradict Jesus' biographies?
- f. The rebuttal evidence – is the Jesus of history the same as the Jesus of faith?
- g. The identity evidence – was Jesus really convinced that he was the Son of God?
- h. The psychological evidence – was Jesus crazy when he claimed to be the Son of God?
- i. The profile evidence – did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God?
 - i. Omniscience – John 16:30
 - ii. Omnipresence – Matthew 28:20, Matthew 18:20
 - iii. Omnipotence – Matthew 28:18
 - iv. Immutability – Hebrews 13:8
 - v. Eternity – John 1:1
- j. The fingerprint evidence – did Jesus – and Jesus alone – match the identity of the Messiah?
- k. The medical evidence – was Jesus' death a sham and his resurrection a hoax?
- l. The evidence of the missing body – was Jesus' body really absent from the tomb?
- m. The evidence of appearances – was Jesus seen alive after his death on the cross?
- n. The circumstantial evidence – are there any supporting facts that point to the resurrection