

**Presentations Offered from
The Center for Apologetics and Worldviews**

Rev. David Thompson, director

www.apologeticscenter.org

apologetics@blc.edu

507-344-7395

The following are stand alone presentations, lasting anywhere from one to three hours. They are sometimes combined (typically I and II) needing anywhere from two to four hours (the length of presentations can be adjusted to fit the time frame that a church or gathering is able to provide). Other presentations are available or are being prepared (e.g., Prof. Dr. Doyle Holbird hopes soon to be presenting on creation and evolution; also, a presentation that studies false worldview assumptions within education and which biblical doctrines they impact).

I. Apologetics overview, dealing with:

- Is apologetics consistent with Lutheran doctrine?
- Is the Christian faith defensible? Should it be defended?
- Do we find examples of apologetics in the Bible?
- Who would benefit from apologetics? How can apologetics be used with our children, relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, enemies?
- How is apologetics important in a culture undergoing rapid and radical worldview changes?

II. Various worldview presentations, addressing:

- What are the most challenging worldviews today?
- What do we need to know about them? Where and how are they manifested? How do they impact our children and fellow believers?
- How can we guard our children, grandchildren, and fellow Christians from becoming prey within the confessional Lutheran context of the gospel in word and sacrament?

III. “What happened to His Body?”

• **What Is Known and What Are Various Explanations of His Resurrection?**

Who was this man called Jesus of Nazareth? Did he die by crucifixion? Was he buried in a tomb? Was his body missing? If so, what happened to his body? Was it really raised from the dead? Is a bodily resurrection possible or is it contrary to common sense and common human experience? What are the other theories that are said to better explain what really happened to Jesus, and what sort of sound historical or scientific evidence do they provide? Where are these theories coming from?

• **The Basis for The Christian Belief?**

Do Christians believe in a resurrected just because the Bible says he rose from the dead? Is there sound evidence that points to or confirms his resurrection?

• **Resurrection Consequences:**

If he did not rise from the dead, what should we conclude? If he rose from the dead, what does this mean?

• **The Resurrection in Evangelism:**

How important is it to talk to unbelievers about the resurrection of Christ? When doing so, is it sufficient to say, “Jesus rose from the dead” or “Believe Jesus rose because the Bible says he did”? Or is there a more faithful, convincing, appropriate, effective, and credible way to explain to others the message of the resurrection of Christ?

IV. “The First and Highest Work of Love”

This quotation comes from Martin Luther; he is referring to evangelism. This presentation is not a typical approach to evangelism. It is, however, very Lutheran, biblical, and practical.

- **Part I:** Challenges, Shortcomings, Roadblocks, Errors, Misunderstandings, and Failures
- **Part II:** What Is Needed and What We Ought to Do or Can Do

(NOTE: this study/essay was also printed in the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*: go [here](#))