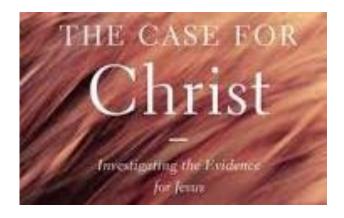
Session 3 June 18, 2023



This is not an "evangelism program". It will not teach you to argue someone into faith. So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

This session is not about proving the Scriptures to be the inspired word of God, but to answer the question: "Are the Gospels supported by other historical writings?"

Some who wrote about the same time as the Gospel writers (or later):

Josephus – Jewish Historian

Tacitus - Roman Historian

Pliny the Younger - Governor of Bithynia

Tertullian – 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christian writer (although not completely orthodox)

Eusebius – 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian historian

Video: Corroborating Evidence

What stuck out to you in the video?

What sounded like things you have said or heard?

What we know from extra-biblical historical writings

Jesus was: a Jewish teacher, worked miracle including exorcism, was tried as a heretic and crucified by Pilate, his followers (of all walks of life) claim He is resurrected and worshipped him as a God (even under threat of torture and death).

Luke 1:1-4, 2:1-2

Acts 1:1-3 Acts 2:22

Do you make claims like this unless there's evidence?

Anyone who claims Jesus is not a real historical figure – who taught and died, and whose followers worshipped him and spread the news of his resurrection – must throw out historical documents of all kinds and places.

What about the "Other Gospels" (mostly Gnostic writings)
Gospels of Thomas, Mary, Philip, Judas, etc.

Collection from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries

Universe – creation of a wicked god Salvation – secret knowledge

Jesus as presented in these writings does not line up with the Biblical Gospels Later – not the historical Jesus

> Gnostic "Jesus" is more like a Greek philosopher, not a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew a Greek

A common perspective:

(pushed by Dan Brown's DaVinci Code and others)

- There were multiple writings
- The early church founders choose one perspective
- and suppressed the others
- Usually in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century

The truth:

The corroborating evidence supports the historical Jesus of the Biblical Gospels.

If Jesus is not a historical person, then what is the point?

Do you want to trust in a symbol or in a real historical savior?

"Jesus didn't come to help me discover who I am (self-realization), Jesus came to tell me who He knew I really am and to do something about it."

For next time:

What does the historical Jesus mean today? What makes Jesus different? What is the greatest miracle Jesus did?