

## Unshakable Foundations

Dr. Norman Geisler and Peter Bocchino

Written by Dr. Norman Geisler and Peter Bocchino, *Unshakable Foundations* is the culmination of more than thirty years of experience teaching apologetics. The information has been refined and sorted to present the truths most critical for today's readers. With clear and direct evidence, the authors help construct a foundation on which readers may stand firm in this changing world.

### Chapter Descriptions

This document has been downloaded from the Legacy of Truth Web site: [legacyoftruth.org](http://legacyoftruth.org).

Visit the site for articles, study guides, and other materials.

In chapter one you will be introduced to Logic and the first principle of all knowledge, the law of noncontradiction. The universal and inescapable nature of this simple but profound law leads us to question its origin and ultimate rational justification. The answer to this question is that there must be some ultimate mind that exists as the foundation for the laws of human thought. In chapter two, we examine the popular views of agnosticism, pluralism, and relativism. As we analyze each view in light of the law of noncontradiction, we show how they are ul-

timately self-defeating. With these views out of the way, we then explain why it is credible to believe that absolute truth exists and define Truth as a statement, idea, symbol, or expression that matches (corresponds to) reality. Chapter three gives a brief description of Worldviews and explains how they affect the beliefs and behaviors of individuals. We have also included a test to measure the credibility of truth claims worldviews make, and offer a few suggestions about how to handle worldview questions.

In chapter four, we embark on a journey into the discipline of Science. Our goal is to gain a basic understanding of the foundations upon which science is built, its limitations with respect to knowledge, and how to apply the scientific method to the question of origins. In chapter five the discipline of Cosmology is brought to bear on the nature and structure of the universe: the question of its origin, namely whether or not it needs a cause, is answered in this chapter. It is argued that based upon the first principle of science and supporting observational evidence, it is most reasonable to believe that the universe is finite. With that being the case, it is necessary to conclude that an infinite and eternally powerful entity caused it to come into existence. In chapter six, we explain why it is credible to believe that this infinite and eternally powerful entity must also be intelligent. Our reasoning is based on the science of information theory, as it relates to the Origin-of-Life. Chapter seven is dedicated to evaluating various models of origins and

answering the questions surrounding Macroevolution. Arguments are made and evidence presented to show that macroevolution is not a credible model of origins. In chapter eight, we show why theistic macroevolution fails to provide the scientific reasoning and empirical evidence needed to support its claims. Hence, we turn to the only logical alternative—the Intelligent Design model—and argue for its credibility as the most plausible model of origins.

Chapter nine discusses Law and the shift in American legal theory from the classical understanding of natural law (Jus) to a view of law that finds its origin in human reason called positive law (Lex). The examination of the shift from Jus to Lex includes the identification of danger signals that ultimately threaten not only the stability of the criminal justice system, but our basic human rights as well. Chapter ten uses a historical context (Nazi Germany) to disclose how the wrong view of human nature (macroevolution) and law (based upon human reason alone) has already violated human rights. Furthermore, we show how the prosecution argued for Justice at Nuremberg based upon an intuitive knowledge of “higher laws” that transcended governments. The foundation for that higher law is a higher lawmaker—the Creator—who bestowed upon humanity intrinsic value that no government or people have a right to take away. At the end of this chapter, we conclude that it makes sense to believe that we live in a theistic universe. However, if an infinitely powerful and just God exists (theism), what

about evil? Where did evil originate? Did God create evil? Chapter eleven examines the questions concerning the nature of God and the problem of Evil.

With the problem of evil identified, and since we believe the answer to the problem came to earth 2000 years ago in the person of Jesus Christ, we turn to History—chapter twelve—to discover the answer. However, a proper interpretation of historical events depends upon the belief that history is really knowable and that miracles can be part of history. After showing that history is indeed knowable and that miracles are possible in a theistic universe, we present the evidence to support the authenticity of the New Testament documents and the reliability of its authors. Once the New Testament is shown to depict a factual representation of the life and teachings of Jesus, we move to chapter thirteen where we examine his claims to see if they are trustworthy, specifically the claims he made concerning his Deity, and what evidence he offered to substantiate his claim to be God. The three lines of evidence offered are: 1) his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies; 2) his sinless life and miraculous deeds; and 3) his resurrection from the dead. If indeed Jesus is God, then what did he say about the problem with humanity?

In chapter fourteen we turn to Jesus for his analysis of the human condition, but we do so after we deal with the popular belief that Ethics and Morals are purely subjective and merely a matter of feelings or human instinct.

A summary of various arguments given by C.S. Lewis is presented to refute those popular beliefs. Following that, we look to Jesus and see what he has to say about ethics, the root cause of humanity's moral disease, and the permanent cure for that disease. The decision one makes on whether to accept or reject the teachings of Jesus on this topic, carries with it temporal and eternal consequences: a destiny of eternal bliss or eternal misery. Each person must decide for himself or herself whether or not to believe in Jesus.

In chapter fifteen, we examine more closely the consequences mentioned above. Our discussion centers on what gives life ultimate meaning, and we show why True Meaning cannot be found apart from a loving relationship with God. God designed us to run on Himself, and apart from Him there can be no "ultimate" meaning—just temporary states of superficial fulfillment. For those who accept the cure Jesus offers for humanity's moral disease, there awaits an eternal state of ultimate meaning and true happiness in Heaven. However, for those who reject God and the cure that Jesus offers, there awaits a place of True Misery, a misery that will last forever. The Bible refers to that eternal state of misery as Hell. Chapter sixteen was written to briefly show why hell makes sense and how it logically follows from God's holy, just, and loving nature.

In addition to these chapters, we have included an appendix titled, "First Principle Responses To Ethical Questions." The topics

## Legacy of Truth: Unshakable Foundations Chapter Descriptions

addressed in the appendix include abortion, euthanasia, biomedical issues and human cloning.

It is our hope that your own doubts and questions will be answered somewhere in the pages of this book and as a result, you will better understand why your faith rests upon Unshakable Foundations. We also hope that this work will help to foster in you a non-defensive boldness to be a confident witness as you share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Flow of Thought

