



Pirate Christian Webinars

Sharing Theological Treasures

# Presuppositions

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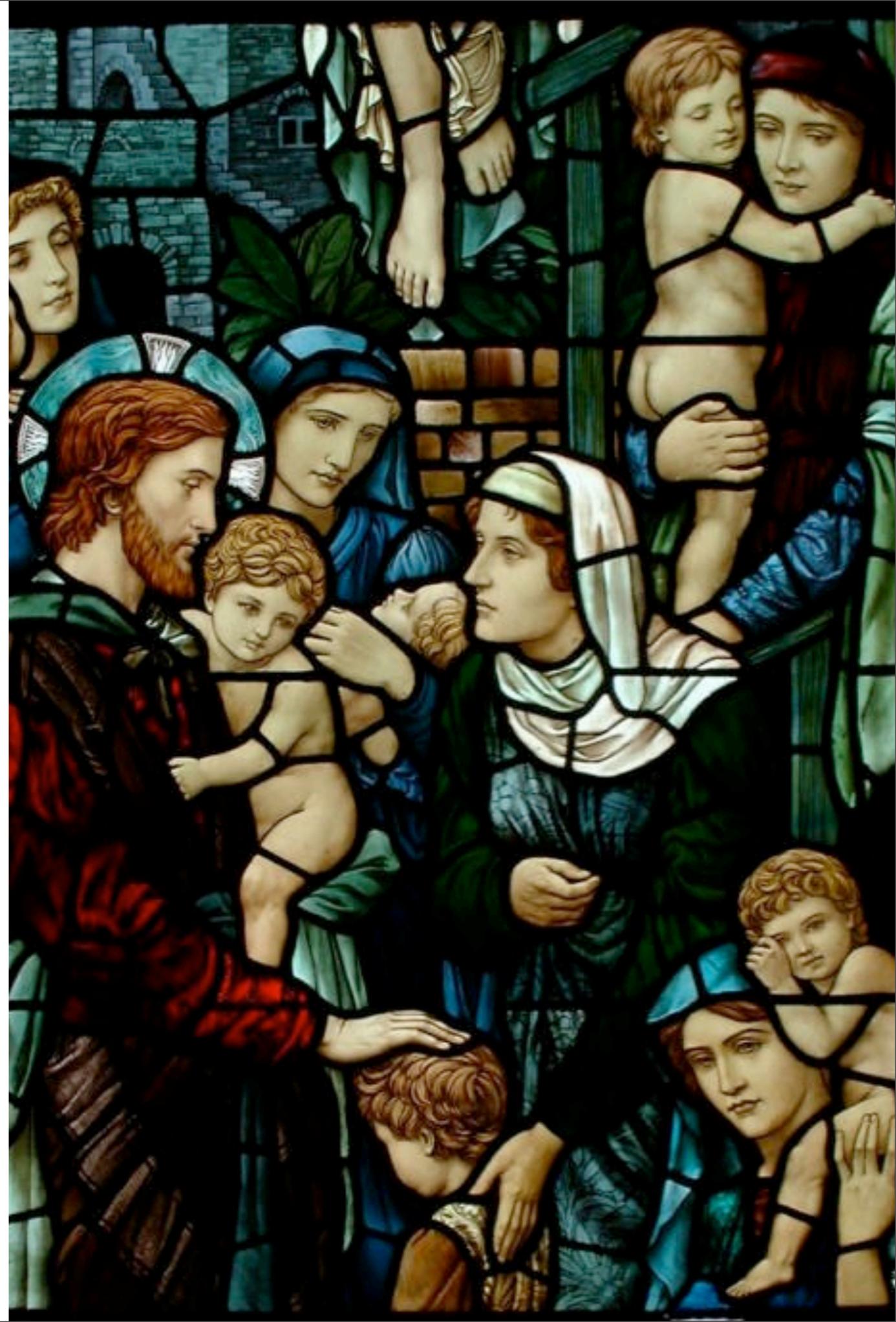
**Sola Scriptura** - The Bible is the inerrant word of God and the only inerrant source of truth and doctrine regarding the one true God

**Sola Gratia**- We are saved by Grace Alone

**Sola Fide** - Through Faith Alone

**Solus Christus** -We are saved through Christ's work Alone

**Interactiva** - The class is interactive, ask questions.

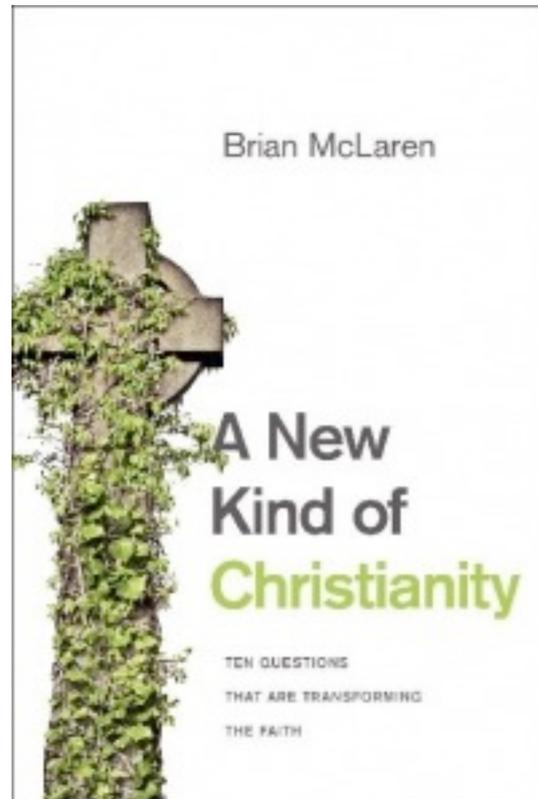


# **Biblical Authority: Constitution or Library?**

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# Occasion and Need for This Webinar

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- Brian McLaren's latest book *A New Kind of Christianity*
  - Full Out assault against Biblical Christianity
  - Refuting McLaren is NOT difficult IF...
    - You Know the Bible
    - You Understand Basic Church History
    - You Understand Logical Fallacies

# How Do We Know Anything About God?

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- **Nature**

- Gives us a very limited understanding of the deity or deities that created the universe
  - intelligent, creative, powerful and sometimes generous and loving
  - wrathful and can be angered
- Thanks to Evolutionary Theory man has concocted a so-called “scientific” rationale for denying a deity or deities created the universe and instead believe there is no deity and that we’re products of random chance.
- So what does nature tell us?
  - Not much
  - Nothing definitive or objectively testable

# How Do We Know Anything About God?

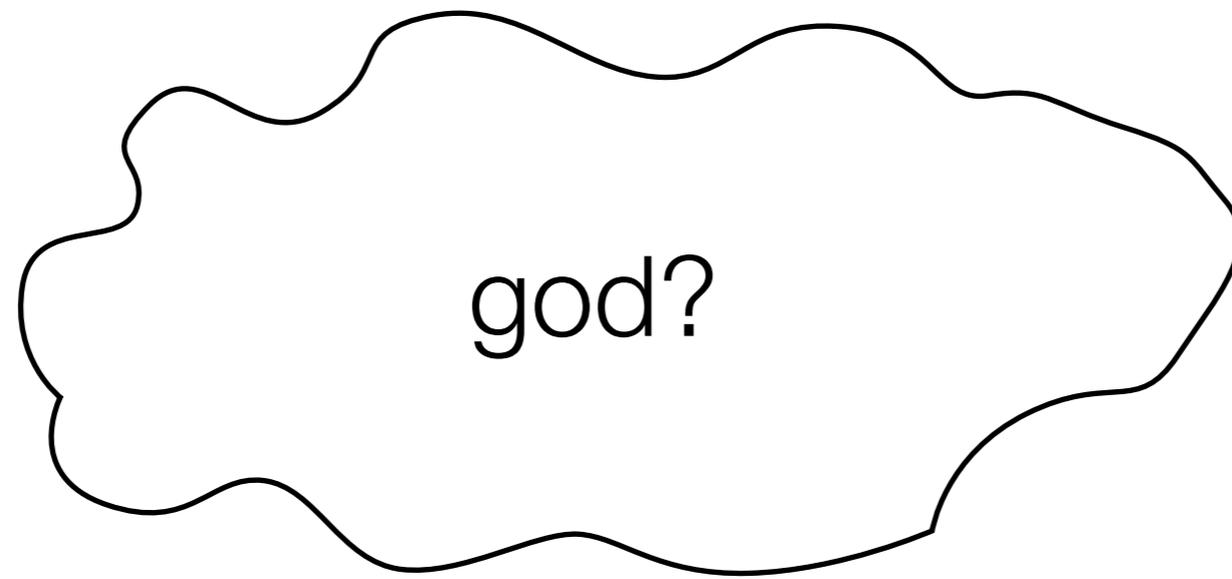
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- **Speculation**

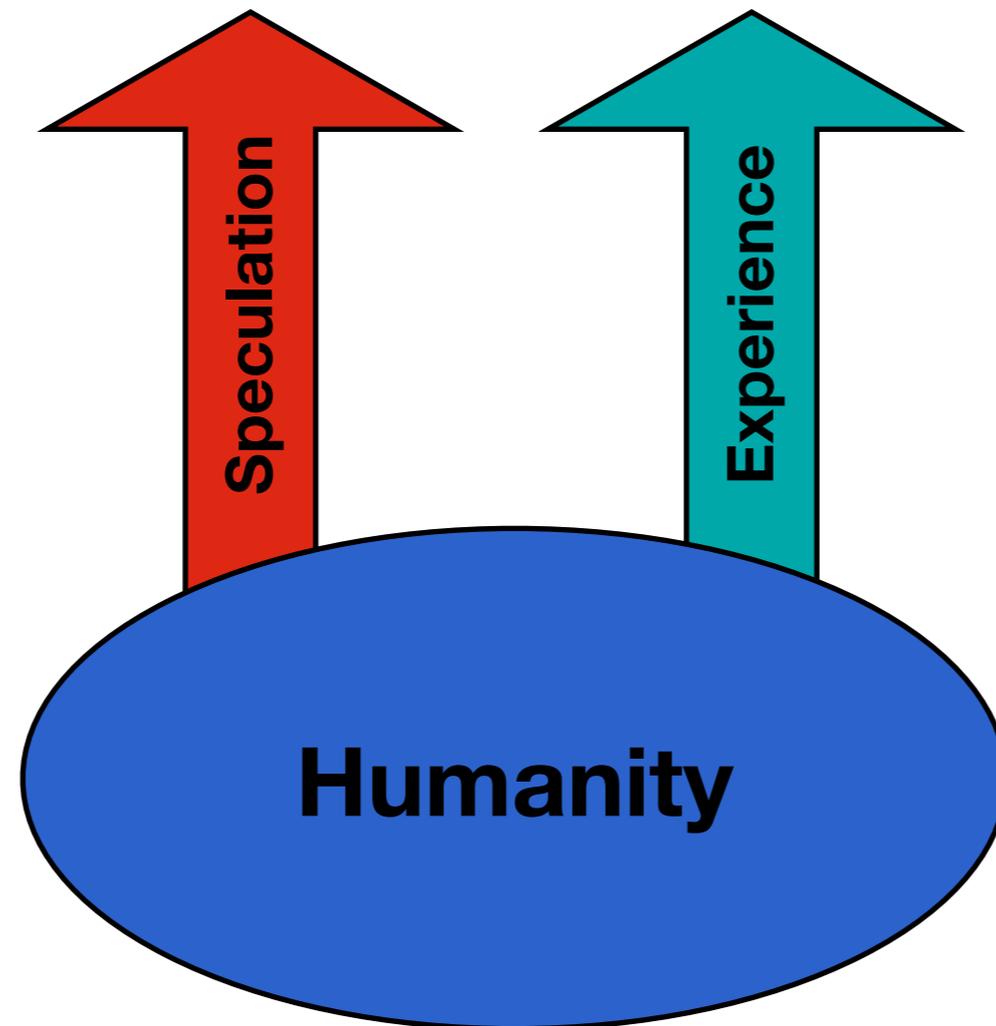
- This is a useless source for truthful information about God.
- Although the human mind is engaged in creating these speculations, this is a highly subjective source and all so-called knowledge of the deity has its origin in a man's theologizing ego.
- Fanciful and creative flights of the human imagination are not trustworthy.

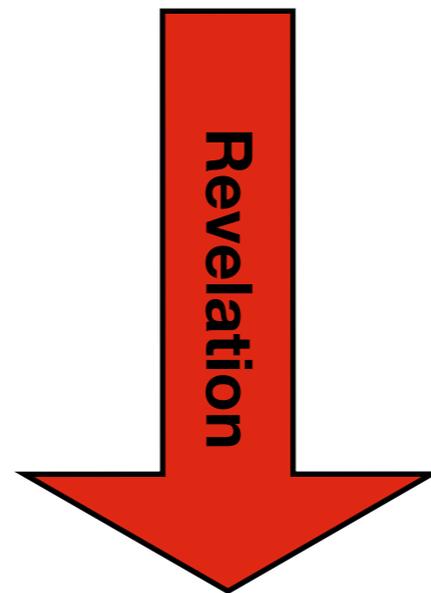
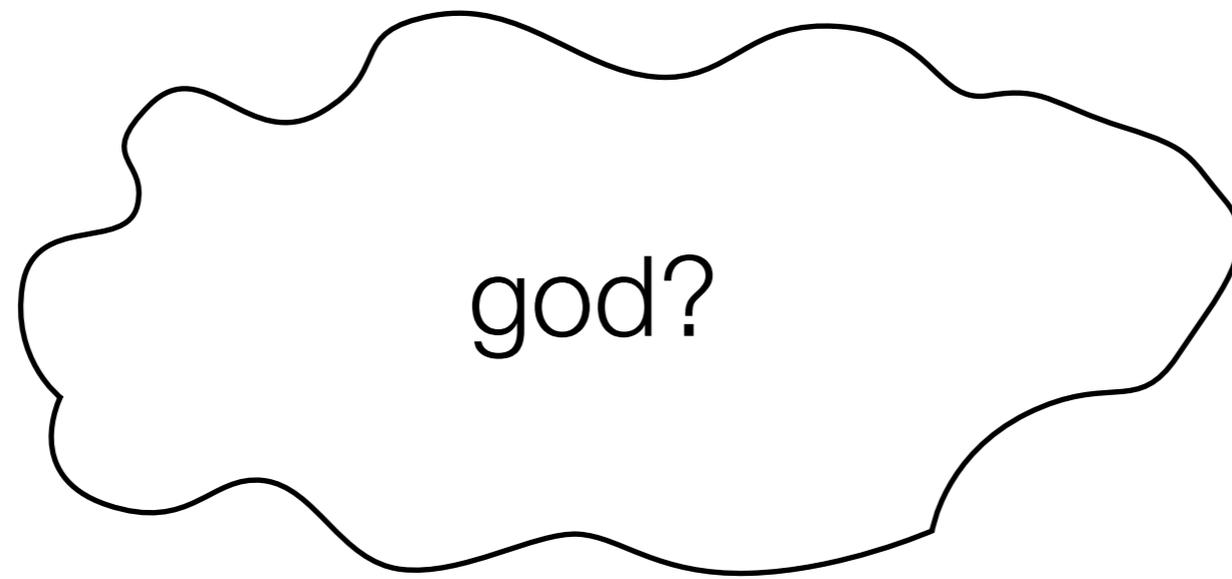
- **Dreams, Visions, and Mystical Experience**

- May be caused by low blood sugar, poor diet, a piece of undigested beef or plain ol' human greed
- Different people's experiences contradict other people's experiences.
  - Mohammed of Islam and Josh Smith of Mormonism
- Fanciful and subjective they're not trustworthy.

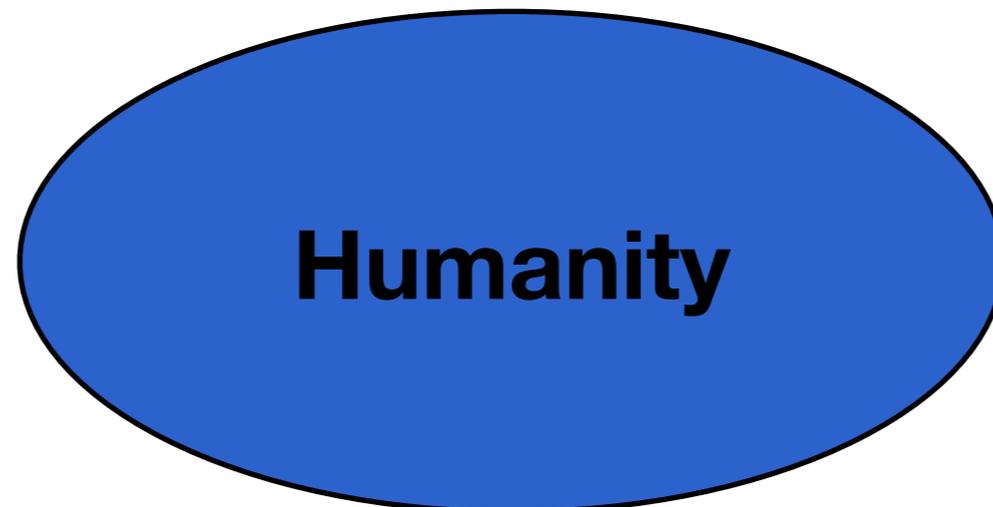


Whose speculations are you going to believe and why?  
Whose mystical experience are you going to believe and why?





This is what we need. **And it needs to be testable.**



# How Do We Know Anything About God?

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- **God Revealing Himself to Us**

- This revelation would yield true information about God that doesn't have its origin in humanity.
- This revealed information would teach us true information about the origins of the universe and our planet.
- This revealed information would teach us true information about God's character, His nature, and His expectations for us & would help us weed out false data.
- This revealed information would move us beyond subjectivity and speculation to objective and specific truth about God.
- This revealed information would NOT tell us everything about God but what it did teach us would be true, accurate and certain.
- This revelation would have to be objectively testable to distinguish it from subjective speculation and subjective experience.
- Does an objectively testable revelation from God even exist?

**YES!**

# Jesus Christ and the New Testament Biographies

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- 2000 years ago in the Judean countryside a man named Jesus
  - Claimed to be the God of the Jewish scriptures in human flesh
  - Spent three years preaching and performing miracles
  - All this was witnessed by both friendly and hostile witnesses
  - Jesus one time even drove the money changers out of the Jewish temple as if He had the authority to do such a thing.
    - “So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.” (John 2:18–21)

# Jesus Christ and the New Testament Biographies

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- Jesus was later killed via crucifixion under Pontius Pilate
- And on the third day after He was crucified He rose bodily from the dead.
  - His resurrection accomplished many things, two of them being...
    - it PROVED His claims to being the God of the Jewish Scriptures in Human Flesh
    - it gave humanity a TESTABLE revelation from God.
- “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:14–17)

# Questions

# The Authority of Scripture is NOT Axiomatic

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- The scriptures are NOT true because they say they are true
- The scriptures are NOT authoritative because they claim to be authoritative.
- The Authority of Scripture Rests ONLY in Jesus Christ, God the Son in Human Flesh.
  - The scriptures are true because Jesus affirmed their truthfulness
  - Those who are Christians would be wise to seek to have no opinion of scripture that is contrary or different than Jesus'.

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “***Have you not read*** that **he who created them from the beginning made them male and female**, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”” (Matthew 19:3–6)
  - Notice that Jesus rebukes them for NOT knowing / believing what was written in Genesis.
  - Notice Jesus quotes the Genesis story of Adam and Eve as if it were historically accurate and true.

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “Therefore **I send you prophets** and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.” (Matthew 23:34–35)
  - Abel was the second son of Adam and Eve and Jesus references his historical murder and his historical blood.

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- ““But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. **For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**” (Matthew 24:36–39)
  - Jesus believed the flood narrative in Genesis was real history.

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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“The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.’ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

But Jesus answered them, “**You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.” (Matthew 22:23–33)

“He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. **You are badly mistaken!**” (Mark 12:27)

# The Nature of Authority RE: Written Documents

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While I'm Away

1. Clean Room
2. Mow the Lawn
3. Take out Trash
4. Write Book Report

NO VIDEO GAMES!

Love Mom

The Authority of the Document is derived  
from the one who gave it.

The same holds true with scripture!

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”” For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)— then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”” (Matthew 15:3–9; Mark 7:10–13)

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, **he will keep (τηρέω) my word**, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **Whoever does not love me does not keep my words**. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**” (John 14:22–26)
- “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. **“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word”** (John 17:17–20)

# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and *make disciples of all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:18–20)
  - How could the apostles fulfill this command?
  - They were instructed by Jesus to make disciples of ALL NATIONS.
  - **Answer:** The apostles are still discipling the nations today through the written word that they have left us that is being translated into the languages of all nations.

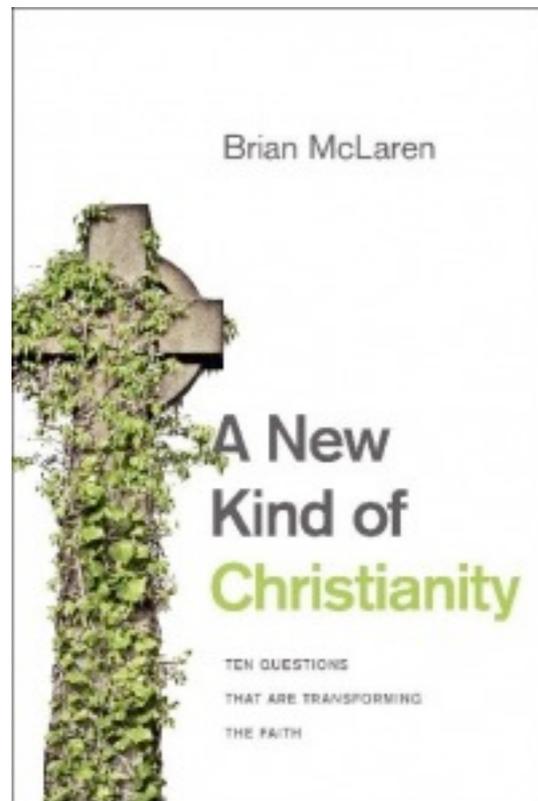
# What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures?

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- “And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘***They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.***’” (Luke 16:27–29)
- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is ***they that bear witness about me***, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (John 5:39–40)
- “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ***but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ***, the Son of God, and ***that by believing you may have life in his name.***” (John 20:30–31)
- “Not everything that the Lord did was written, but that which the writers believed was sufficient for life as well as for doctrine, so we might glow with the upright faith and works and virtue and in Christ Jesus, reach the kingdom of heaven” - Augustine

# McLaren's Hypothesis

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- Think of the Bible as graded mathematics textbooks
- Old Testament = first grade understanding about God
  - $1+1=2$
  - Humanity not ready for nuanced and complicated revelation about God.
  - O.T. is man's best attempt and understanding God within their cultural limitations.
    - God of wrath = man's misunderstanding
- Jesus in the Gospel's = Calculus

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- The Old Testament is NOT a book of human speculations regarding God
- The authors of the Old Testament were God Taught (διδασκτοὶ θεοῦ)
- Formation of the Torah by Moses happens under the careful and watchful eye of YHWH with significant and major portions being given directly to Moses during his “face to face” conversations with YHWH
  - “The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, **which I have written for their instruction.**”” (Exodus 24:12)
  - “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua” (Exodus 17:14)
  - “The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and **will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets,** which you broke.” (Exodus 34:1)
  - “And the LORD said to Moses, “**Write these words,** for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”” (Exodus 34:27)

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- The Old Testament is NOT a book of human speculations regarding God
- The Prophets were God Taught (διδασκτοὶ θεοῦ)
  - “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:20–21)
  - “Then the LORD said to me, “Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters,” (Isaiah 8:1)
  - “And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.” (Isaiah 30:8)
  - “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.” (Jeremiah 30:2)
  - “write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out.” (Ezekiel 43:11)
  - “And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,” (Habakkuk 2:2)

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- The Old Testament is NOT a book of human speculations regarding God
- The Prophets were God Taught (διδασκτοὶ θεοῦ)
  - “Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers,” (Isaiah 28:14)
  - “Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah:” (Isaiah 38:4)
  - “Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:” (Isaiah 39:5)
  - “Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying” (Jeremiah 1:4)
  - “The word of the LORD came to me:” (Ezekiel 7:1)
  - “The word of the LORD that came to Hosea” (Hosea 1:1)
  - “The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:” (Joel 1:1)
  - “Now therefore hear the word of the LORD” (Amos 7:16)
  - “Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying” (Jonah 1:1)
  - “The word of the LORD that came to Micah” (Micah 1:1)

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- God Not Man is the Author of Scripture!
  - The Old Testament is not the product of human efforts at understanding God. But, is information revealed by God himself to be heard, headed, obeyed & taught.
  - ““Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children— how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)
  - ““Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- God Not Man is the Author of Scripture!
  - “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, *God spoke to our fathers by the prophets*, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world” (Hebrews 1:1–2)
  - “He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”” (Luke 1:54–55)
  - “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,” (Luke 1:68–70)
  - “Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:” (Acts 28:25)
  - “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.” (1 Peter 1:10–12)

# Answering McLaren's Hypothesis

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- God Not Man is the Author of Scripture!
  - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
  - “For them [the Israelites] these were philosophers, wise men, theologians, prophets, professors of probity and piety. Whoever lived and learned according to them learned and lived not according to men but according to God, who spoke through them. These mouths did not pour out human but divine oracles.”  
- Augustine

# Answering McLaren's Hypothosis

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- God Not Man is the Author of Scripture!
- McLaren's hypothosis has absolutely ZERO merit and is destroyed by the God himself through the scriptures that are shown to be objectively authoritative by Christ's authority through His resurrection from the dead.
  - “For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach....He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to **rebuke those who contradict it.**
  - For there are many who are insubordinate, **empty talkers and deceivers,** especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.” (Titus 1:7–14)

# McLaren is a Heretic and an enemy of God

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- God Not Man is the Author of Scripture!
- McLaren's hypothesis has absolutely ZERO merit and is destroyed by the God himself through the scriptures that are shown to be objectively true and authoritative by Christ's authority through His resurrection from the dead.
  - "credant sine scripturis ut credant aduersus scripturas"
    - They believe without the scriptures, that they may believe AGAINST the scriptures - Tertullian
  - "To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no light." (Isaiah 8:20)
  - "And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability." (2 Peter 3:15–17)

# McLaren is a Heretic and an enemy of God

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- “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”” (John 8:42–47)
- “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Romans 8:6–8)
- “And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ““Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””” (Matthew 4:3–4)
- “Heaven and earth will pass away, **but my words will not pass away.**” (Matthew 24:35)

**Thank You!**