

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES

The Study of Christian evidences is the study of matters that give substance to the claims of the Gospel and its principal figure, Jesus Christ. Such evidences are usually divided into two major fields.

“Internal evidence” is one of these major fields of proof. By this term we refer to things within the Bible itself that indicate that the Bible is the product of God and not of mere men. Since the Word of God is the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11) and Christianity is all that it produces when faithfully followed, to establish the authenticity of the Scriptures is to authenticate Christianity. Internal evidence includes the complete self-harmony of the Scriptures (it does not contradict itself), the historical, geographical, and scientific accuracy of the Bible, the prophetic utterances and their fulfillment in the Bible, and much more. These evidences demonstrate that the Bible could not have been produced from the minds and talents of mere men.

“External evidence” is the second major field of proof. This term refers to things outside the Bible that confirm what is in the Bible. Archaeologists have repeatedly unearthed artifacts that have confirmed what the Bible had said long before it was otherwise confirmed. Archaeological finds have never contradicted Biblical statements, whether historical, geographical, or otherwise. Also, in the sphere of external evidence is the argument from design. My wristwatch could not have spontaneously or accidentally sprung into existence. It is obviously the product of intricate, precise, detailed design. **There is no “design” without a “designer.”** If this is true about something as simple as a wristwatch, it is much more true of the vast universe. The only rational explanation of how our world and all living creatures began is that an all-

powerful and all-wise Designer designed and created them. Just such a Designer the Bible reveals and describes as the true and living God.

“Practical evidence” might be considered a third field of proof. By this I refer to the effects of the Gospel when it is faithfully obeyed. Without the slightest doubt, Christianity has influenced civilization for the better, never for the worse, wherever it has gone. The awful blight of slavery has been all but conquered through the influence of the Gospel. Women have been elevated immeasurably by the ennobling power of New Testament Truth. The spirit of freedom that gave birth to our nation is rooted in the Bible. However, perhaps even more powerful than these are the changes wrought in individual lives. Indeed, this is the way the Gospel has its widespread effect—as leaven in the dough (Mat. 13:33), it affects one individual after another until the many are affected. It turns the murderer into an apostle. It puts the lazy man to work, sobers up the drunk, and causes the thief and the fornicator to abandon their evil ways. Such is indeed a powerful form of “Christian evidences.”

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