

The Skeptic

The skeptic is an odd individual, indeed. The same rhetoric is consistently used by the majority, i.e., “The Bible contradicts itself;” “The Bible was written by men in an endeavor to control the masses.” As Solomon said, “That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun” (Eccl. 1:9). This is also true of the skeptic.

The skeptic likes to use the “shotgun” approach to a Biblical discussion: like buckshot out of a barrel, they attempt to stir up smoke as they fire, what they believe to be, unanswerable questions. That is what the Pharisees and the Herodians attempted: “And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, that they might catch him in talk. And when they were come, they say unto him, Teacher, we know that thou art true, and carest not for any one; for thou regardest not the person of men, but of a truth teachest the way of God: Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why make ye trial of me? bring me a denarius, that I may see it. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus said unto them, Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's (Mk. 12:13-17).

For the sake of being “short and sweet,” I offer the following. When a skeptic asks you one of their “unanswerable questions,” simply ask them if they are willing to sit down and discuss that question.

Generally, you will receive one of three responses: “Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, We will hear thee concerning this yet again... But certain men clave unto him, and believed” (Acts 17:32-34). My personal favorite is one that will extract a Campbellite grin (if you know what that is, you are truly old school), i.e., “I need to pray about it.” In such a case I would not suggest you reserve a time slot. ret