**1. Motivate**

Harry Kroto, a Nobel Laureate in chemistry and "devout atheist," stated in a 2011 speech to fellow Noble laureates,

*I'm gonna talk about what science is because it's a totally misunderstood sort of subject. There are aspects of science which are important…But for me, the most important, by far, is it's the only philosophical construct we have to determine truth with any degree of reliability*.

**2. Transition**

Common worldview: “Scientism” -- Often expressed in comments such as

* I trust science to show me truth.
* Evidence produces truth.
* I can only know what my senses tell me.

Common forms of scientism:

1. Strong Scientism – The idea that only scientific knowledge is true knowledge. Anything that cannot be tested through empirical science is dismissed as mere opinion or speculation.
2. Weak Scientism – The view that science is the most authoritative or reliable way to gain knowledge, though other sources may have some value.

Key problem with scientism – it is “self-refuting”

* The claim “only science gives us real knowledge” is *itself a philosophic statement*!
* It cannot be proven scientifically!
* It actually requires *faith*!

Today we contrast Christianity and Science as a faith … Scientism.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Christianity Is Based on Evidence, Just Like Some Science

Listen for evidence.

1 John 1:1-4 (NIV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

In verse 1, John speaks of what was "heard," "seen," and "touched." Why do you think he emphasizes these sensory experiences?

* objective tests
* can be observed and recorded – which is what he did
* these are all evidence of the existence and ministry of Jesus

Why is eyewitness testimony important in both science and faith?

* neither can be mere opinion
* cannot be someone’s interpretation or personal idea
* must be based on tangible, re-creatable experiences

How does this passage illustrate that?

* John describes the tangible, firsthand experiences in knowing and associating with Jesus
* Jesus was real (is real)
* He lived, died, and was risen from the dead
* John saw Him, associated with Him, heard His teachings, saw the miracles

In a similar manner, your personal experience with Jesus is observable personal evidence.

* Jesus gives you peace, joy, assurance of heaven
* God’s Holy Spirit guides you, empowers you, protects you
* God provides your needs
* may be hard to quantify these things, but they are still true personal experiences

3.2 Scientism Is a Faith.

Faith is necessary for all worldviews – in this case we consider Scientism

Consider Hebrews 11:3 – “*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible*.”

Christians have faith in, or believe God's Word,

Those who believe in Scientism have faith that only material things are real

Why can’t the statement “only material things are real” be scientifically proven?

* it is a philosophical assumption, not a scientific claim
* it is not an observation or hypothesis that can be tested by the scientific method
* it cannot be verified by the science
* If "only scientifically testable things are real," then scientism itself must be scientifically tested—but it cannot be

Note also Romans 1:20-22 – “*For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools.”*

How does this challenge the assumption that human reasoning alone can lead to ultimate truth while rejecting God?

* God’s actions are observable in nature
* His wisdom, design, and even humor (consider zebras and giraffes) are observable
* we have firsthand records of Jesus’ miracles
* even today, our personal experiences of a personal relationship with the Creator God cannot be denied

3.3 Christianity Provides More Satisfying Answers to The Questions A Worldview Must Answer

Listen for a question.

John 6:68-69 (NIV) Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Christianity doesn’t just provide answers.

* It provides the **best** and most **fulfilling** answers

Why do people sometimes seek meaning in other worldviews when Christianity provides such compelling answers?

* they don’t like what they see as limitations of Christianity
* they don’t realize the significance of Jesus’ work of redemption
* they might see Christianity as too simplistic – “Just believe …”
* they have seen poor examples of people who claim to be Christians

What can we do to help others see that Christianity provides the satisfying answers to life’s biggest questions?

* live a life of genuine faith – by our beliefs **and** actions
* show kindness like Jesus did
* demonstrate the joy of knowing sins forgiven
* show kindness, patience, self-control
* allow God to live through us the Fruit of the Spirit

Application

* Who in your "sphere of influence" relies on science to provide truth?
* What preparations do you need to take to engage them in a spiritual discussion?