



J. WARNER WALLACE

**CASE-MAKERS
COURSE**

SESSION 10

**CAN THE GOSPELS BE
CORROBORATED?**

WRITTEN BY CALEB A. NELSON
(WITH J. WARNER WALLACE)

COMPLETE THE READ, WATCH, AND WRITE SECTIONS TO EARN THE CERTIFICATE



READ

Study These Segments from J. Warner's Book and Answer the Questions:

Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels (Pages 200-235)

Unintentional eyewitness support

The accounts puzzled together just the way one would expect from independent eyewitnesses. When one gospel eyewitness described an event and left out a detail that raised a question, this question was

_____ by another gospel writer (who, by the way, often left out a detail that was provided by the first gospel writer). (Page 202)

Regional names

If the gospel writers were simply guessing about the names they were using in their accounts, they happened to guess with _____. Many of the popular Jewish names in Palestine were different from the popular names in Egypt, Syria, or Rome. The use of these names by the gospel writers is consistent with their claim that they were writing on the basis of true eyewitness familiarity. (Page 212)

Nonbiblical eyewitnesses

The Gospels are similarly corroborated from the “_____” by the testimony of witnesses who reported what they knew to be true, even though they were not Christians and did not necessarily believe the testimony of the gospel writers. These non-Christian eyewitnesses were often _____ to the growing Christian movement and critical of the claims of the Gospels. In spite of this, they affirmed many of the details that were reported by the gospel writers. (Page 214)

Archaeology

Even when the written accounts of ancient nonbiblical writers seem to contradict the testimony of the gospel authors, archaeological findings continue to _____ the apparent contradictions by confirming the claims of the New Testament. (Page 229)



WATCH

Review This Video from the Case Maker’s Course and Answer the Questions:

Case Making Course Session 10 (Investigating the New Testament) - Can the Gospels be Corroborated?

Can they be verified in some way? _____ is often required to know if somebody is telling the truth, especially if you have two competing witnesses who say two different things.

Archaeology has confirmed these claims. Where we had _____, we ultimately now have _____. And you will see this over and over again in the claims made by New Testament authors that were originally doubted but later confirmed.

The people who were writing in Egypt and making up stories about Jesus just didn't know enough, they may have known a few names of His disciples and a few cities, but they weren't familiar with all of the details of the region around Jerusalem to be able to repeat it with the kind of _____ and the kind of _____ that the Gospel authors did because the Gospel authors actually knew the region because they were writing early in history from the region.

Pagan sources as testimony

Thallus, _____, Mara Bar-Serapion, _____ (Origen)

You would know something about Jesus even if you lost _____ just from non-Christian voices in the first century.

I don't expect to corroborate every detail. But this touch-point corroboration is helpful. I don't expect to corroborate _____, but I should be able to corroborate _____.



WRITE

Answer the Prompt Briefly to Master the Material:

Are there any individuals in your social circle who follow other faith systems such as Mormonism or Islam? Such followers often justify their belief in their worldview based on their upbringing or personal experiences. How can we employ corroborative evidence to discern the authenticity of other religious beliefs? How does this fit with your definition of *faith*?



RAISE THE BAR

View These Additional Resources:



Unbelievable? Is There Enough Evidence Beyond The Gospels To Make Their Testimony Reliable?

<http://bit.ly/3Yqe7A0>



We Can Corroborate The Gospels Without Verifying Every Detail

<http://bit.ly/3F3PC4I>