

## REASONS TO BELIEVE: CHAPTER FIVE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Define the following terms: Atheism; Theism; Deism; Agnostic; Pantheist; Panentheist; Relativist; Skeptic.
2. Read the *Catechism* quote on p. 57. What does it mean to you as you consider whether the Catholic Church values, or does not value, other churches and faiths? (Listen to Evelyn Waugh's interpretation in "Brideshead Revisited" – read by Fr. Marc).
3. Based on our conversations, beyond being a gift, is faith a choice we make, or *do* we have a choice when the gift is offered (p.60)?
4. What is harder for you – accepting *THAT* God is, or *WHO* God is?
5. What would you use to explain the faith to an atheist – natural reasons for belief, or biblical prophecies and miracles? Explain your answer. Which would you use to explain the faith to a non-Christian theist? Explain your answer?
6. Ancient Jews based their belief in part on Jesus' resemblance to the Savior prophesied in the Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures. Do you think people today have as much trust in this "proof from prophecy" technique? Explain your answer.
7. This Lent, read some of the Old Testament prophecies about the Savior listed on p. 61. Does Christ fulfill these prophecies? Check your answers by locating where in the New Testament Jesus does fulfill these prophecies, if he does.
8. What is the difference between Jesus' "miracles" in the first three Gospels (the Synoptics) and his "signs" in John's fourth Gospel (p.62)?

**\*\* NEXT WEEK: Talking about our faith with Protestant Christians using *biblical reasons*.**