

Lesson Notes:

Defending Our Faith

Most Christians are aware of their responsibility to reach a dying world with God's message. Jesus exhorts us to proclaim the gospel (**Matt. 10:27**) and make disciples of all nations (**Matt. 28:19**). However, there is another dimension often neglected by Christians; namely, the defense of the gospel. The Bible urges us to contend for the faith (**Jude 3**). Just as the first Christians consistently offered reasoned defenses of their faith before unbelievers (for example, see Stephen's speech in **Acts 7** and Paul's address in **Acts 17:16-34**). Giving reasons for our faith (apologetics) is an essential element of the biblical Christian witness.

Scriptural Principles

1) Peter urges us to be prepared to give an answer for the reason of the hope that we have in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). - Peter admonished believers to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have with **“gentleness and respect”**”.

2) Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 10:5 that only by meeting honest objections with Biblical answers can we reasonably contend for the faith.

3) Paul rigorously defended the faith whenever challenged. – Please see **Acts 14:8-18; cf. 17:2-3; 18:4, 19; Phil. 1:7, 16**

4) Paul exhorted Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:23-26 to also vigorously defend the faith.

In support of Christ being the one true Lord

5) The Holy Spirit has spoken to my heart. - Paul tells us in **Romans 5:3-5** that God has provided us with the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts. Paul tells us in **Romans 10:14-17** that in order for people to recognize the Love of Christ they need someone to tell them the good news of the gospel. If we are not willing to spread the good news and just stand by quietly than how will they ever receive the good news?

6) His Wonderful Promise – Jesus told Nicodemus and all of us in **John 3:14-18** why he was sent. In **John 14:1-3** he promises a place for us in Heaven. Therefore Christ paid the price for our sins and he prepares a place for us in heaven. As Christians we want to see all who are made righteous through the blood of Jesus enjoy eternal life with us and the Lord.