

## CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Christian apologetics is a branch of theology that defends the Christian faith against all objections.

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WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

WHAT ARE THE CORE BELIEFS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

WHY DO WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD?

WHO EXACTLY IS JESUS?

WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF SALVATION?

- DO ALL PEOPLE NEED TO BE 'SAVED?'
- HOW CAN A PERSON BE 'BORN-AGAIN?'
- ARE WE REQUIRED TO BE BAPTISED? HOW? WHEN?
- WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

WHAT IS EXPECTED AND REQUIRED OF CHRISTIANS?

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HOW 'READY' ARE YOU TO SHARE (DEFEND) YOUR FAITH?

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Jude 1:3

*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (KJV)*

*Dearly loved friends, I had been planning to write you some thoughts about the salvation God has given us, but now I find I must write of something else instead, urging you to stoutly defend the truth that God gave once for all to his people to keep without change through the years. (TLB)*

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WHY DO YOU/WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE?

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER? WE ARE ADMONISHED TO BE READY ALWAYS TO....GIVE AN ANSWER!

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1 Pet 3:15

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (KJV)*

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (NIV)*

*But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, (TEV)*

**We are charged to share our faith, with confidence and with love and respect (genuine concern) for others.....for them to Know Jesus**

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GOD'S INTENT FOR THE CHURCH IN THE EARTH

**We are the Light of the World: We are the Salt of the Earth**

Matt 5:13-16

13 *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

14 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

15 *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (KJV)*

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GOD'S INTENT FOR THE CHURCH IN THE EARTH

**We are God's Witnesses**

Isa 43:9-12

9 *Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.*

10 *Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*

11 *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

12 *I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. (KJV)*

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Acts 1:8

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (KJV)*

*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection." (TLB)*

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## GOD'S INTENT FOR THE CHURCH IN THE EARTH

### We are Trustees of the Faith

2 Tim 2:1-2

1 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (KJV)*

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### WE MUST BE DILIGENT, MAKING GOD'S TRUTH A PRIORITY FOR US AND OTHERS

2 Tim 2:14-16

*Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

(KJV)

14 *Remind your people of these great facts, and command them in the name of the Lord not to argue over unimportant things. Such arguments are confusing and useless and even harmful.*

15 *Work hard so God can say to you, "Well done." Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means.*

16 *Steer clear of foolish discussions that lead people into the sin of anger with each other.*

(TLB)

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### WE ARE ADMONISHED TO STUDY!!!

Study

*spoudazo*

- to use speed
  - to make effort, be prompt or earnest:
  - be diligent: be zealous: make it important...a priority!!
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### THE IMPORTANCE AND POWER OF 'SCRIPTURE!'

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

17 *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (KJV)*

16 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

17 *so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV)*

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2 Pet 1:20-21

20 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (KJV)*

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Heb 4:12-13

12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

13 *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (KJV)*

12 *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (NIV)*

**WE ARE ALL BORN IN SIN, AND DESPARATELY NEED TO BE 'BORN-AGAIN!!!**

**JESUS TESTIFYS TO NICODEMUS:**

John 3:14-17

14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17 *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)*

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**Looking Ahead to Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

## **HOMEWORK**

Study the History of the Bible

- How did the Bible we have come to be?
- Why are some "sacred" texts included and others aren't?
- How confident can we be that what we have is the Word of God?

Please take time in personal study this week, and be prepared to dive into these questions on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.