

Ready to Give a Defense / Reason

- *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1Pet. 3:15*
- We must be able to defend ourselves.
- Conflict between light and dark demands it.
- Satan is always hurling fiery darts.
- 1. Defend ourselves against others
- 2. Defend ourselves against ourselves.
- When costs rise, reasons must rise with it.

Reasons are Essential

- *if Christ has not been raised, then **our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.** 15 Moreover we are even found to be **false witnesses of God,** because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is worthless;** you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, **we are of all men most to be pitied.** 1Cor. 15:14-19*

Reasons are Essential

- When error, persecution, or doubt enters regarding our reasons, defenses and proofs:
- If the reasons crumble, what is left?
- *preaching of the apostles vain*
- *your faith also is vain.*
- *Apostles are false witnesses of God,*
- *your faith is worthless;*
- *we are of all men most to be pitied.*
- It is very important that we keep our reasons and defenses fresh, vibrant, and intense.
- We can be tossed to and fro if we are not careful

All Historical Events Based on Testimony

- Anything that happened in the past.
- An hour, day, year, decade, century, millennia.
- If not present, **only one method** left to gain insight, knowledge or understanding and wisdom about the event. Without this we are blind...
- The testimony and witness of evidence
- Court of law – car accident, medical emergency
- Testimonials – product reviews, commercials
- reporter – historian – doctor – teacher – lawyer
- Multitudes of things are only known in this way.
- We accept this and work with it as best we can.

The Testimony of Witnesses

- God's challenge now and charge on the last day
- *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 1Jn. 5:9-12*

Accept only when benefits us?

- testimony / witness of evidence
- Court of law / Medical Care
- Product reviews, commercials
- reporter – historian – doctor
- teacher – lawyer – friend
- Then when God seals His testimony of Jesus and we reject it.
- Only logical conclusion ...
- We think God is a liar.

God's Testimony of Jesus

- **Prophecy -**
- **Early Testimony** – Zacharias, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, coming of wise men to Jerusalem.
- **Sent John the Baptist**
- *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. Jn. 1:6-9*

This is Testimony on a Grand Scale

- God has given over 200 testimonies of Jesus before He ever came to this earth.
- Now verified and sealed by Dead Sea Scrolls
- Also gave an historian to verify on human level.

Luke Interviewed – Gave Conclusions

● *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. Lk. 1:1-4*

God Sent a Man

- *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. John 1:6-9*
- Everything we need and use today, God also used.
- We have a man sent to bear witness and testify.

John Bore Witness

- As John gives his testimony – uses logic, facts, reasons and evidence.
- *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." Jn. 1:29-31*

John Bore Witness

And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." *Jn 1:32-34*

Is John a liar? Is God a liar?

Mighty Works, Wonders and Signs

- God also bore witness by Jesus' miracles
- *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested (showed publicly, demonstrated) by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know. Acts 2:22"*

God's Testimony – Not Man's

- *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. Mt. 16:16-17*
- At the time of Peter's confession, this was the extent of God's testimony.
- Six days later...

Six Days Later...

- *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ... 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. Matt 17:1-3*

Peter Never Forgot

● *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, 2Pet. 1:16-19*

The Rock – Jesus Built His Church Upon

- *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Mt 16:16-19*
- *Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you.*
- *My Father who is in heaven has revealed it.*
- *He has revealed: I am the Christ, the Son of God.*
- *Upon this "rock" I will build my church.*

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