

Ready to Give a Defense / Reason

- *but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: (being) ready **always to give answer to every man that asks you a reason concerning the hope that is in you**, yet with meekness and fear: 1Pet. 3:15*
- What type of defense would we make?
- What is the reason for our hope?
- For most they are based on the evidence we have:
- God's Existence
- Jesus' Resurrection
- Scriptures' Inspiration
- With these things fixed so also the reason for hope

Without Reasons Hope is Gone

- *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 giving a reason to those who ask or a reason to ourselves when persecution or doubt: If our reasons crumble, There's nothing 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 to consider the reasons we have in the forefront of our mind.
- We need to keep them fresh, vibrant, and intense
- At any unexpected moment we might need them.

History Can only Based on Testimony

- Anything that happened in the past.
- We can't use primary proof: our own senses.
- Testimony and witness of evidence all we have
- It is the basis and foundation of most knowledge
- Very few actually witness with senses.
- The rest of us have only testimony
- Yet we have the same convictions
- We don't see any difference in the knowledge of our own senses and the knowledge by testimony.

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

All Successful People Accept ...

- The testimony of men
- In all realms of life we don't doubt
- Court of law / Medical Care
- Product reviews, commercials
- reporters – historians – doctors
- teachers – lawyers– friends
- But when God seals His own testimony of Jesus it is rejected.
- Only logical conclusion ...
- They think God is a liar.

God's Own Testimony

- *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Rom. 1:18-21*
- Only denied by suppressing the truth
- Everything with design and function is created.
- Man suppresses that truth with big bang/evolution.
- God says I created it! Someone is lying/suppress

Who will we believe?

- *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Ps 19:1-3*
- *The fool has said in his heart There is no God Ps 14:1*
- Liar and fool are not name calling. God's charge:
- *Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged." Rom 3:4*
- *"Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? Job 40:8*

God's Testimony of Jesus

- Prophecy - > 200 facts before they occurred
- 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*

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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