

WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

1 Peter 3:15

INTRODUCTION

- A. Need to look at the internal evidences of the Bible to be able to give an answer for "the hope" that we have.
- B. Our text: "answer" - Strong's Greek #627 ἀπολογία [apologia] noun. "1 verbal defence, speech in defence. 2 a reasoned statement or argument." Cf. Acts 25:16; 1 CO 9:3.
 - 1. Defense consists of a "reason" (LOGOS, word) which supports one's hope (cf. HE 11:1; RO 10:17).
 - 2. It is telling why you believe what you believe.
- C. Why do you believe the Bible is the word of God ["A special, divine revelation"]?
- D. Why many have in the past / present:
 - 1. Tradition of parents, etc.
 - 2. Sociological factors (cf., race, nationality).
 - 3. What you have heard all of your life.
 - 4. "Because the Bible says so." (Yes, but why??)
- E. Valid reasoning process: Subject P Evidence P Logic P Judgment.
- F. Is there sufficient evidence to support Bible's claim & our belief in it?
 - 1. If there is, then that evidence provides a basis for your faith - HE 11:1.
 - 2. If there is not, then do not believe it.

DISCUSSION

- I. PROPOSITION: THE BIBLE IS A SPECIAL, DIVINE REVELATION.
 - A. Special: Opposite Of General Revelation.
 - 1. General - What can be known of God through nature (indirectly reveals something about God) - RO 1:20.
 - 2. Special - What God directly makes known to man - 1 CO 2:10-11.
 - B. Divine: From God And Not Man.
 - 1. Product of deity, not human genius - GA 1:11-12.
 - 2. Human instrumentality, but not human origin - EP 3:3-5.
 - C. Revelation: An Unveiling / Uncovering By God.
 - 1. Not something man could discover, but only that which God could reveal.
 - 2. 1 CO 2:9-10.
- II. BRIEF EXAMINATION OF THE BIBLE'S CLAIMS.
 - A. The Investigation Of The Bible's Internal Evidences: Circular Reasoning Or The Logical Place To Start?
 - 1. Modernist: "Using the Bible to prove the Bible is assuming what must be proven."
 - 2. Instead: Investigating & testing the ground of its claims. (cf. Claim of oil on land - Drill there, not in next state!) JN 5:39, 46; 20:30-31.
 - a. If insufficient evidence exists to support the claim, then the Bible is patently false!
 - b. If evidence is sufficiently strong - Compels belief in its claims.
 - c. Cf. Drilling for oil (dry hole vs. natural gas/striking oil).
 - B. That God Verbally Revealed Himself To Man: "The Word Of God" - 1 SA 3:21 (OT - Over 3,800 times).
 - 1. DT 18:18-19 - God used prophets to speak His words.
 - 2. Process: God (His Spirit) P Prophets P Words - ZC 7:12; 2 PE 1:20-21; cf. MT. 10:19-20.

- C. That God's Revelation Of Himself Has Been Recorded In Inspired Scripture - 2 TI 3:16; 1 CO 14:37 (1 PE 1:23-35).
 - 1. Inspiration (THEOPNEUSTOS) - "God-breathed." (Scripture is the "breath of His mouth" - PS 33:6).
 - 2. 2 PE 1:20-21 - Not of human explanation / origin.
 - 3. We have God's revelation today: BIBLE! (1 PE 1:23-25)
- III. DOES IT MATTER?
 - A. Yes, If You Want A Strong Faith.
 - 1. Faith is based upon evidence, not hearsay / conjecture / blind assumption - HE 11:1; RO 10:17.
 - B. Yes, If You Want To Follow God, Not Man - cf. 2 PE 1:16-21.
 - 1. Peter rests his case upon evidence:
 - a. v. 16 - Eyewitness testimony.
 - b. v. 17-18 - The Father's voice.
 - c. v. 20-21 - Inspired explanation & origin of prophecy.
 - 2. v. 19 - Assurance of faith!
 - C. Yes, If You Want To Be Ready To Give An Answer For Your Hope - 1 PE 3:15.
 - 1. Paul was - PH 1:17 (Cf. Acts 17:2-3; 19:8).
 - 2. We must - 1 TH 5:21.

CONCLUSION

- A. The evidence we will consider from the Bible for its divine inspiration:
 - 1. Unity & style.
 - 2. Fulfilled prophecy.
 - 3. Scientific foreknowledge.
 - 4. Historical reliability.
- B. Then, we will assess the evidence & how we can use it.
- C. Want you to know why you can be sure that the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God!
-Strengthen your faith & equip you to give answers for your hope.