

Are You Ready To Answer?

1 Peter 3:13-16

- Why believe the Bible is the word of God?
- Tradition of parents, grandparents, others?
- Ethnic background?
- What you've heard all of your life?
- Because “the Bible tells me so?”
- Yes! But, why?

- 1 Pet. 3:15 - apologia, “A verbal defense” (Thayer).
- Defense (Acts 22:1; 1 Cor. 9:3; Phil. 1:7, 17; 2 Tim. 4:16); Answer (Acts 25:16); vindication (2 Cor. 7:11).
- Defense consists of a “reason” (logos, word) supporting hope (cf. Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17).
- Sufficient evidence provides a foundation for faith – Heb. 11:1.

Divine Revelation

- General Revelation – What God makes known of Himself through His creation (nature).
- Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1:20 – Indirectly reveals something about God.
- Special Revelation – What God specifically makes known (reveals) to man through His word.
- 1 Cor. 2:9-13 & 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

The Word of God

- 1 Sam. 3:21 – God verbally revealed Himself.
- OT refers to God speaking over 3,800 times!
- Inspired - 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:37.
- Inspiration - “God-breathed” (the “breath of His mouth” – Psa. 33:6).
- 2 Pet. 1:19-21 – Not of human origin.
- 1 Pet. 1:23-25 The WORD OF THE LORD, the Gospel!

Matters that Affect Eternity!

- Necessary in order to build and maintain a Strong Faith – Rom. 10:17.
- Substance & evidence – Heb. 11:1. (3:14)
- Not assumption or presumption – Psa. 19:13; 2 Pet. 2:10.
- Jn. 20:30-31 – That you may believe!
- 1 Jn. 1:1-4 – That you may also have fellowship!
- 2 Pet. 1:16-21 – Peter's case was established upon solid, reliable evidence...
- 2 Pet. 1:16 – Eyewitness testimony.
- 2 Pet. 1:17-18 – The Father's testimony.
- 2 Pet. 1:19 – The word confirmed.
- 2 Pet. 1:20-21 – God's will, not man's!

Decision...

- Necessary to be ready, and able, to defend the hope that is in us! – 1 Pet. 3:15 – BUT HOPE MUST BE IN US!
- Peter and John were ready – Acts 4:8-13.
- Stephen was ready – Acts 7:2-53.
- Paul was ready – Phil. 1:17; Acts 17:2-3; 19:8.
- We must be ready! – 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Pet. 4:11; Jude 3.
- Are you?

- The Bible defies explanation in any other terms than as the inspired Word of God.
- It is special and divine revelation.
- Its claims are valid provable through use.
- Its content is uniquely of eternal value!
- Are you ready to defend your faith and the hope that is in you?
- If you are not, do want to be?

The Anvil of God's Word

“Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith’s door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

“‘How many anvils have you had,’ said I,
‘To wear and batter all these hammers so?’
‘Just one,’ said he, and then with twinkling eye,
‘The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.’

“And so, I thought, the Anvil of God’s Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.”

—Attributed to John Clifford

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever... 1 Peter 1:25

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for for
thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy
word above all thy name. Psalm 138:2

My Old Bible

Though the cover is worn,
And the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears,
Yet more precious than gold
Is this Book worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my fears.

This old Book is my guide,
'Tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens the mind,
As I read it and heed it each day.

To this Book I will cling,
Of its worth I will sing,
Though great losses and crosses be mine;
For I cannot despair,
Though surrounded by care,
While possessing this blessing Divine.

—Anonymous