

1 Peter Series

Lesson #084

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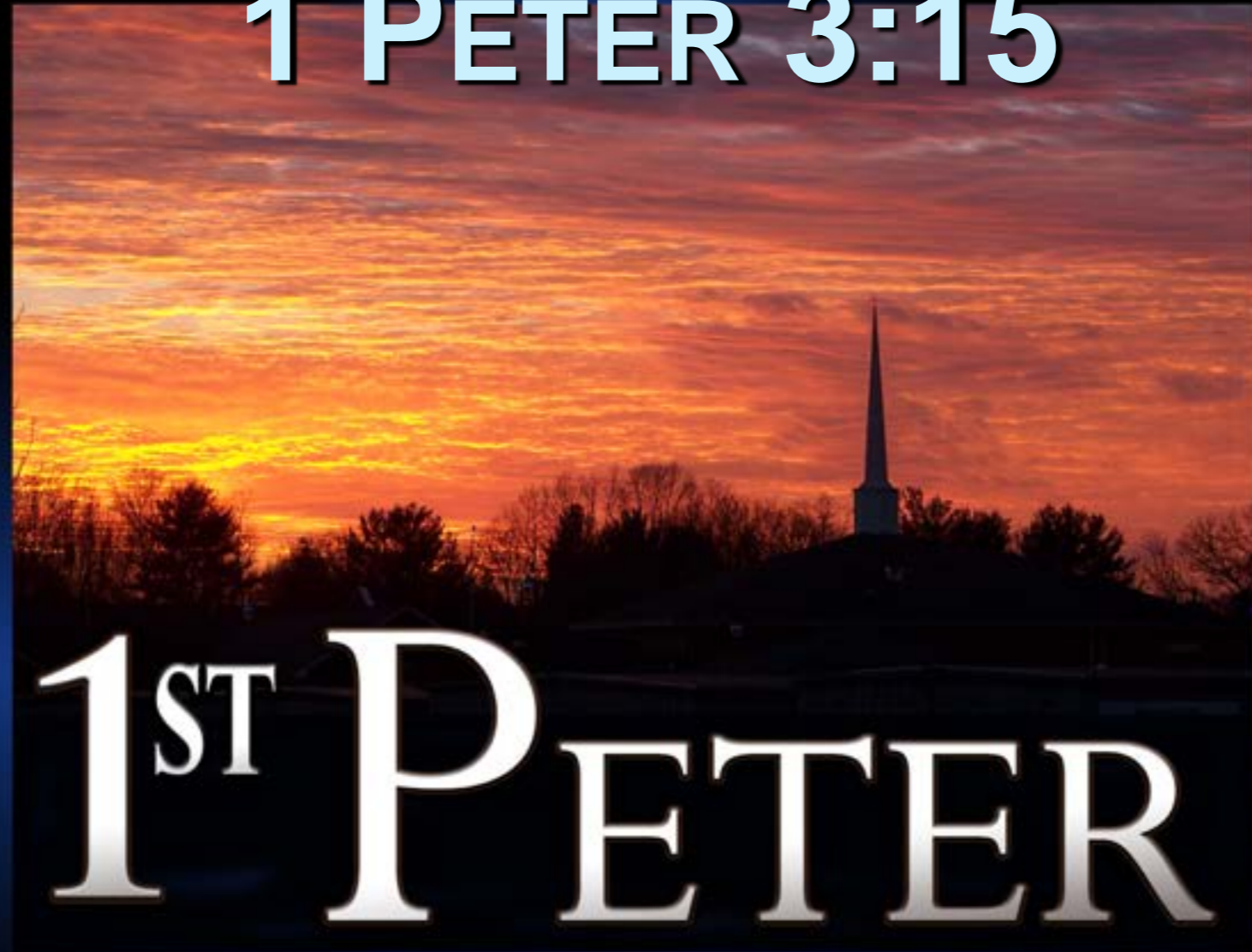
Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

**THE GOODNESS OF GOD;
GIVING AN ANSWER—PART 2**

1 PETER 3:15



1ST PETER

**LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY**

1 Pet. 3:13, “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?”

1 Pet. 3:14, “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.’”

1 Pet. 3:15, “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;

1 Pet. 3:16, “having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1 Pet. 3:17, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

Introduction to Apologetics

1. **What is *Apologetics*?**
2. **Why should we learn about apologetics?**
3. **Why do some people object to apologetics?**
4. **The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**
5. **What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?**
6. **On what basis do we defend, support, argue, that Christianity is the one and only TRUTH?**

1. What is *Apologetics*?

OED (Oxford English Dictionary)

1 a regretful acknowledgement of an offence or failure.

3 a justification or defence.

In common usage, most people only think of the first meaning, which is not the biblical nor the historical meaning.

The OED's third meaning is the meaning related to the biblical teaching on apologetics.

1. What is *Apologetics*?

ἀπολογία apologia

① a speech of defense, *defense, reply*

② the act of making a defense, *defense; as*

in court, or an eager activity to defend oneself, 2 Cor. 7:11

③ claim of extenuating circumstance,

excuse,

BAGD

“17× the noun or verb appears in the New Testament with the sense of either vindication or defense in every use.

(Boa, Faith has its Reasons)

Acts 26:1, “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You are permitted to speak for yourself.’ So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself:

Acts 26:2, “ ‘I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews,’ ”

Acts 24:10, “Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: ‘Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,’ ”

“The New Testament, then, does not use the words *apologia*, and *apologeomai* in the technical sense of the modern word *apologetics*. The idea of offering a reasoned defense of the faith is evident in three of these texts (Phil. 1:7, 17; 1 Pet. 3:15).”

Apologetics has nothing to do with saying one is sorry or guilty over some action.

Christian apologetics is the discipline wherein an intelligent effort is made to defend before an unbelieving world the truth claim of the Christian faith, specifically its claim of exclusive true knowledge of the living and true God, in a manner consistent with the teaching of Scripture.

~Robert Reymond, *The Justification of Knowledge*

“*Apologia* describes a carefully reasoned defense in response to a line of questioning or wrongful accusation by recognized authorities. The word may also refer to a more informal defense outside of the courtroom against personal questioning or accusation (1 Cor. 9:3; 2 Cor. 7:11; 1 Pet. 3:15). The intent of an *apologia* is to win over the person being addressed, to change his mind about what is true.”

~Clough, *Theology and Apologetics*

From this we see that the definition [of apologetics] involves the knowledge of facts and determination of truth. Over the centuries the meaning of knowledge, facts, and truth have been intensely debated. Underlying this discussion are assumptions about a specific view of reality. How one person understands reality is directly related to his worldview. This includes an understanding of the ultimate nature of reality, how we know anything and how we validate or justify that knowledge, how that knowledge affects our understanding of truth, which in turn impacts ethics and the determination of right and wrong, or even if right and wrong exists.

THE ANCIENT CHURCH

A.D. 100–600

AGE
OF THE
APOSTOLIC
FATHERS

AGE
OF THE
APOLOGISTS

AGE
OF THE
THEOLOGIANs

A.D.
100

A.D.
150

A.D.
300

A.D.
600

Apologetics involves communication



Christian
Missionary

What is their
common ground?
language?
culture?
religion? (what
do they each
mean by “god”)?
truth?
values?
reason?
experience?



Pagan aborigines

Apologetics involves communication

What must the missionary do to communicate with the aborigine?
language?
culture?
religion? (what do they each mean by “god”)?
truth?
values?
reason?
experience?



Christian
Missionary



Pagan aborigines

Apologetics involves communication



Do they mean the same thing by:
god?
truth?
life?
creation?
right and wrong?



Christian
Missionary
Divine viewpoint

Pagan aborigines
Human viewpoint

Apologetics involves communication



Do they mean the
same thing by:
god?
truth?
life?
creation?
right and wrong?

Christian
Missionary
Divine viewpoint



Your post-modern
sister, friend,
co-worker
Human viewpoint

Apologetics involves communication



Do they mean the
same thing by:
god?
truth?
life?
creation?
right and wrong?

Christian
Missionary
Divine viewpoint



Your Moslem,
Buddhist, New Age,
athiest, or Jewish
friend, co-worker
Human viewpoint

Genuine communication involves making clear what one person thinks to another person.

As such, the person who is communicating from a divine viewpoint should make sure that in his communication of his culture's beliefs that he does not compromise his own divine viewpoint standards.

So in a more technical sense, “giving an answer” assumes giving an understandable explanation that communicates truly to the person who comes from a different framework.

How we know the gospel is true is built on:

- **knowledge,**
- **how we know,**
- **limitations on human knowledge because of both intellectual corruption from sin and volitional corruption,**
- **the nature and definition of truth,**
- **the role of God the Holy Spirit,**
- **the impact of unbelief and truth suppression on the part of the unbeliever.**

Introduction to Apologetics

- 1. What is *Apologetics*?**
- 2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**

2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

a. Because it is commanded in Scripture!

Titus 1:9, “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

- b. Because it strengthens our own understanding of what we believe and builds our confidence in God, the gospel, the Scripture, and Jesus.**

2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

c. It advances us spiritually.

2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2 Cor. 10:5, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”

2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

d. Apologetics was a priority for the apostle Paul.

Phil. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

Phil. 1:17, “but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.”

2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

e. Both thought and communication require it.

Phil. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

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- 3. Why do some people object to apologetics?**

3. Why do some people object to apologetics?

a. Some people do not understand it, either from a misunderstanding of the concept or from a fallacious epistemology.

- The Bible does not need to be defended.**
- God can't be known by human reason.**
- Natural humanity can't understand.**
- Jesus refused to give signs for evil men.**

3. Why do some people object to apologetics?

b. Some people argue from a false perception of the biblical presupposition.

The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM Classic Apologetics- Logic and reason	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM Evidentialism- Facts, history, science	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM Fideism-just believe, apart from reason or evidence	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION Presuppositionalism- Presupposes the truth of Scripture	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic & reason

Prov. 26:4, “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.

Prov. 26:5, “Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.”