

# APOLOGETICS

Introduction



# **FOUR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS**

- Does God exist?
- Is the God of the Bible the real God?
- Is the Bible from God?
- Is the Bible accurate in all it communicates?



# THREE PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- Why do I believe God exists?
- Why do I believe the Bible tells about the true God?
- Why do I believe the Bible is from God?
- Why do I believe the Bible is accurate?



# THREE PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- How do I know God exists?
- How do I know the Bible tells about the true God?
- How do I know the Bible is from God?
- How do I know the Bible is accurate?



# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

- Believe them
- Doubt them but for no particular reason
- Disagree vehemently by using weak arguments
- Lovingly, firmly, and fearlessly reject what is false and demonstrate for them the truth



# APOLOGETICS

- Act 24:10; 25:8, 16; 26:1-2, 24; 2 Tim 4:16
  - Paul in court
- Act 22:1
  - Paul before the Jewish mob
- 1 Cor 9:3ff
  - Paul, defending his right to receive wages as a preacher and his decision not to do so from the Corinthians
- Php 1:7, 16
  - Paul's defense and confirmation of the gospel
- 1 Pet 3:15
  - Always ready to make a defense



# PAUL'S APOLOGETICS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9

- Defense #1: Paul's "right to eat and drink"
  - Argues from consistency V5-6
  - Argues from similarity V7
  - Argues from authoritative precedent V9-10, 13
  - Argues from lesser to greater (~a fortiori) V11
  - Argues from moral fairness V12
  - Argues with appeal to ultimate authority directly on the question at hand V14



# PAUL'S APOLOGETICS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9

- **Defense #2:** Just because Paul didn't exercise his "right to eat and drink" did not make him less of an apostle
  - *External Motivation:* To cause no hindrance V12
  - *Purpose:* Would not make his boast an empty one V15
  - *Internal Motivation:* Preaching voluntarily brought a reward V17
  - *Personal trustworthiness:* A pattern of life to not exercise freedom, for the benefit of others V19-22
  - *Higher objective:* For the sake of the gospel V23a
  - *Charitable outlook:* To share in the blessings with those he sacrificed for V23b
  - *Consistent with his foundation for life:* Lived with purpose V25-27





# WHAT *SPECIFICALLY* ARE WE DEFENDING?

- Could be anything
  - The plan of salvation
  - Work, worship, and organization of churches
  - Biblical views of sexual morality
- For this class, foundational beliefs that all the rest depend on
  - Does God exist?
  - Is the God of the Bible the real God?
  - Is the Bible from God?
  - Is the Bible accurate in all it communicates?



# WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS STUDY?

- Internal motivations
  - Answer questions you have yourself! Mk 9:24
  - Stronger personal faith - know why you believe Lk 17:5; Col 2:6-7
  - Defend your own faith against attacks 2 Tim 3:13-15
- External motivations
  - Better able to answer questions of seekers (children, friends, coworkers) Eph 4:11-14
  - Persuade those in error – but to what end? Php 1:15-17
  - “Win” an internet debate Mt 7:6
  - Defeat opposition - to what end? Mt 6:2, 5, 16
  - Plant a seed 1 Cor 3:6; Mk 4:31-32; Lk 8:11-15; Lk 13:6-9



# PURPOSE IN APOLOGETICS

- 1 Pet 3:15 - Ready to make a defense – but in what way?
  - V8-9, 15b Our attitude
  - V11 Seek peace
  - V12-14 Fearless
  - V16 Our conduct
- V18 Christ's physical suffering led to our sanctification
  - What might our willingness to suffer for Christ do for others?



# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Luke 12:11-12

- Jesus told his disciples not to prepare beforehand what they would say, because the Holy Spirit would teach them in that very hour what they should say
- That promise was not made to us, but we can learn from it

- Luke 21:12-15

- Similar instructions, promise worded differently: He would give them wisdom and utterance no opponent could refute
- Their persecution would lead to an opportunity for testimony

