

In Defense of the Gospel
Philippians 1:3-8

1312

Topic: Apologetics

Aim: To remind folks it is the responsibility of all to give a defense of the gospel when needed.

1. The other day I picked up the phone book to look up a doctor's phone number. Under the listing "Physician" in the Bowling Green yellow pages there were several specialties listed.
2. Every discipline is like that. Religion is no exception.
3. Among the disciplines in religion is "apologetics."
4. What is apologetics? Why bother me with that?

I. Philippians 1:3-8.

- A. Paul here uses the phrase "the defense and confirmation of the gospel."
 1. Compare Philippians 1:12-18. Note the context.
 2. The word defense is the word *apologeomai* from which we get our word apologetics.
 3. What does it mean? To defend.
 4. Compare Acts 19:33,22:1, 1 Corinthians 9:3.

- B. Paul is saying there are times that the case for the truth of the gospel needs to be stated.
 1. Just as one might make a case before a judge.
 2. When we do that we are practicing apologetics.

II. Why would one need to defend the gospel?

- A. There are those who would deny the truth claims of the gospel.
 1. The Jews in New Testament days. Even Pilate himself, John 18:38.
 2. Jesus himself warned of false teachers, Matthew 7:15-20, and He himself defended His own claims, John 5:31 ff
 3. These challenges can come from within as well as without, Acts 20:28-31.
 4. There are times when one must defend the preaching to the lost, Acts 17:1-4.
 5. There are those that would change the gospel, Galatians 1:6-9.

- B. What about the gospel needs to be defended?
 1. The existence of God.
 2. The divinity of Jesus.
 3. The church.
 4. The plan of salvation.
 5. In reality, anything that is questioned or challenged!

III. That's all well and good for preachers and maybe elders.

- A. But not for me, I don't want any part of any controversy.
 1. Remember that the Christian way is often compared to a warfare.
 2. Remember also how controversial Jesus was.

- B. Let's look at one last passage: 1 Peter 3:15.
 1. Peter tells us that we must do it.
 2. Can you? You can if you know your Bible!

1. Apologetics ... a 25 cent word that means to defend what you believe.
2. I am set for the defense of the gospel. Are you?

Lehman 3-20-2011