

Apologetics

Reasons To Believe

Reading: [Hebrews 11:5-6](#)

Text: [1 Peter 3:15](#)

Introduction

A. Why are you a Christian?

1. If someone were to ask, could you tell them?

2. [1 Peter 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.

B. For the next few Sunday nights, I want to give you some reasons.

1. I hope it will strengthen our faith

2. I hope it will prepare us to be able to obey [1 Peter 3:15](#)

1. The Christian Faith is Intelligent and Rational

A. It appeals to the mind as well as to the heart!

1. God expects us to use our minds:

2. [Matthew 22:36](#)—“love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your **mind**”

3. [John 8:32](#) “And you shall **know** the truth, ...”

B. Does this mean we can offer 100% proof?

1. No, but there is virtually nothing of which we can be 100% sure

For example: who our parents are

2. Yet, we often make 100% commitments with less than 100% proof;

For example: flying on an airplane

3. Is there ENOUGH proof to make 100% commitment to Christ?

4. I believe that there is

2. The Christ Faith is Historical and Factual

Christianity appeals to History and its Facts!

1. [Luke 2:1-5](#)

2. [Luke 3:1-2](#)

3. Notice the appeal to historical times, places, people and events

3. The Christian Faith is Objective!

A. Faith in an Object: Jesus of Nazareth

1. Faith in WHO He was: The Christ, the Son of God

2. Faith in WHAT He did: He rose from the dead on the third day

B. It DOES make a difference what we believe!

1. [John 8:24](#)—If you do not believe I am He...

2. [Roman 10:9](#)—if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

4. The Christian Faith Is Based on Truth

“Truth is ALWAYS open to examination.”

1. [Acts 2:22](#)—Peter appealed to the crowd to examine what they knew

2. [Acts 26:24-26](#)—Paul invited Agrippa to examine the evidence

5. Why People Reject Christ

A. Ignorance

[John 7:40-43](#)—They didn’t know Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

B. Pride

[John 12:42-43](#)—They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God

C. Sin

[John 3:19-20](#)—“men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”

D. Stubbornness

1. [2 Thessalonians 2:10](#)—they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved

2. There is not enough evidence to force a man against his will when he is determined to reject it!

3. My friend’s Dad.

CONCLUSION

1. Will you reject Him?

2. If you believe Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, why do you wait? Arise and be baptized washing away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!