

Sermon: An Apology for the Gospel

Text: I Peter 3:15-22 ESV

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Introduction: There is a branch of theology that is called “Apologetics.” An apology is a defense or proof, in this case, for Christianity - and gives reasons to believe what the church believes, is true.

Peter says we need to be ready (prepared). To be prepared we need:

I. _____

II. A _____

A. Christ as Lord in your _____ (v.15)

B. _____ and _____ are required (v. 15).

C. Good _____ - it is required (vv. 16-17).

III. The _____ Works through His Word.

Conclusion: How will we feel if historians of the future look back on the Evangelical church...and declare, ‘They fought bravely on the moral fronts of abortion and homosexual rights,’ while at the same time reporting that they did little to fulfill the Great Commission, and we did little to spread the aroma of grace in the world?’

We need to return to our mission!

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¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered[a] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which[b] he went and proclaimed[c] to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because[d] they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Footnotes:

[a] 1 Peter 3:18 Some manuscripts died

[b] 1 Peter 3:19 Or the Spirit, in whom

[c] 1 Peter 3:19 Or preached

[d] 1 Peter 3:20 Or when