

“Always Be Ready To Give A Defense”

1 Pet. 3:15

Introduction:

- A. Peter’s statement obligates us to know *why* and *what* we believe. (Cf. End of roast).
- B. Peter’s statement indicts many professed Christians – will not defend thier position.
- C. Peter’s statement has two very important *implications* for us.

Discussion:

I. We Must *Have A Good Reason For Our Hope.*

- A. Faith and hope for the wrong reasons is little better than error.
 - 1. Feelings. (Jer. 17:9).
 - 2. Human traditions (Matt. 15:2,9; Acts 7:51).
 - 3. Consensus of brethren. (Acts 15:1).
- B. Faith and hope must be based on word of God. (Rom. 10:17; Col. 3:17; 2 John 9-11).

II. We Must *Be Prepared To Defend That Reason.*

- A. With knowledge.
 - 1. Know the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11; Psa. 1:2 cf. Hos. 4:6; Acts 3:17).
 - 2. Know the opposition. (2 Cor. 2:11; 2 Tim. 2:25).
- B. With determination.
 - 1. Apostles were set for defense. (Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Acts 6:9,10; 17:1,2; 18:19,27,28).
 - 2. Jesus was set for defense. (Mt. 4:1-11; Mt. 23).
 - 3. Modern religionist seldom willing to openly defend his faith.
- C. With “Meekness And Fear.”
 - 1. Defend not out of vanity or pride. (cf. Prov. 16:18; 1 Cor. 4:7; Gal. 6:1)
 - 2. Defend to win souls not an argument. (cf. Rom. 9:3; 2 Cor. 10:5).
 - 3. Defend knowing that we will be judged by same standard. (Mt. 7:1-2).

Conclusion:

- A. Why would one not believe in defending his hope? Same as “muley cow” not believing in hooking.
- B. Why not obey 1 Pet. 3:15, if insist on obeying rest of Bible?
- C. How will we answer the Lord for not being ready to answer now?