


REASONS TO BELIEVE

Lesson 1 – Introduction



PURPOSE

Give evidence for believing in –

God as the Creator

Jesus as the Risen Lord

The Bible as God's true & inspired Word





APOLOGETICS

From Greek *apologia* – a logical defense or explanation, argument

1 Peter 3:15 – “...always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you...”

Acts 22:1 – “Brothers and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.”

Philippians 1:7 – “...since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel...”

2 Timothy 4:16 – “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me.”



1 PETER 3:13-16



How do you think this study can help you fulfill this command?

In this text, what are we defending?

What attitudes should characterize our defense?



GROUND RULES



1

We will be honest about our beliefs.

2

We will be fair about what others believe.



WHY DO YOU BELIEVE?



Some common reasons –

Upbringing

Experience

Feelings

It Works

What's the difference between **subjective** and **objective** reasons for our beliefs?

Why are subjective reasons insufficient for believing anything?



IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS



Faith – a reasonable conclusion based on observable evidence, leading to a belief in something unseen

Doubt – uncertainty about what or why you believe, based on factors such as reason, emotion, or experience



PRESUPPOSITIONS



Presupposition – a belief that is assumed true from the beginning

1) *Naturalism* – the belief that nature is all there is; there is nothing outside the universe

2) *Supernaturalism* – the belief that something exists outside of nature; the universe depends on something outside itself

Where you start (#1 or #2) determines where you end.



Is BIBLICAL FAITH BLIND?



Hebrews 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:7

John 20:29

The ***object*** of our faith is invisible,
but the ***basis*** for believing is visible



STEPS TO BIBLICAL FAITH



Look objectively at the evidence
("what do we see?")

Reason through the evidence
("what's the best explanation?")

Choose the right path
("what will I decide to do?")



1 PETER 1:13



Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.