

WHY STUDY CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES?
(1 Peter 3:15)

I. Definitions

- A. “Apologetics”—“the systematic scientific DEFENSE of the Christian faith in all its aspects against the INTELLECTUAL attacks of its adversaries”
 - 1. Emphasizes PHILOSOPHICAL systems
 - 2. Builds a LOGICAL defense
- B. “Evidences”—“setting forth CONCRETE reasons for accepting the Bible as GOD’S WORD and Jesus Christ as LORD and SAVIOR”

II. Reasons

- A. The Bible COMMANDS it (1 Pet. 3:15; cf. Phil. 1:7, 16; Col. 4:6; Titus 1:9; Jude 1:3)
- B. The early Christians DEMONSTRATE it
 - 1. Evidence of Christ’s RESURRECTION (Acts 4:33; 1 Cor. 15:1-8)
 - 2. Evidence of God in NATURE (Acts 14:15-17; Rom. 1:20)
 - 3. Evidence of their own TRANSFORMED LIVES (Acts 26:9-22; 1 Tim. 1:12-16)
 - 4. Evidence of FULFILLED PROPHECY (Acts 26:22,27)
- C. Our contemporary culture NEEDS it

III. Uses

- A. To provide the UNBELIEVER with credible EVIDENCE of the gospel's TRUTH
- B. To make the BELIEVER completely CONFIDENT in the gospel's TRUTH
 - 1. To CONFIRM their FAITH
 - 2. To PREPARE them to witness EFFECTIVELY
 - 3. To EQUIP them to stand without COMPROMISE on the full INTEGRITY of God's Word

IV. Cautions

- A. Potential for a WRONG ATTITUDE
- B. Danger of becoming COLDLY INTELLECTUAL
- C. Requires EFFORT in PREPARATION
- D. Cannot replace PRAYER and reliance on the HOLY SPIRIT