

Do You Have the Answers?

08/05/2018

Sunday AM

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15-16, Acts 17:16-23

Introduction

- Last week we discussed **The Bible: Science Fact or Fiction?**
- The Bible may not be a science book, however it is a book filled with facts.
- We can trust the Bible whether it is speaking on matters of science, faith, personal issues...
- This morning we are asking **Do You Have the Answers?**
- Human beings have always asked three basic questions:
 1. Does God exist?
 2. What kind of God exists?
 3. How may I know this God that exists?
- **As a Bible believing Christian, how would you respond to an unbeliever asking you these questions?**

1 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

- V.15 – A person that has set Christ apart as Lord in their heart, should be prepared to give an answer.
- The word “answer” in this verse is the Greek word *apologia* which means – to give a defense or argument.
- This is where the term Apologetics comes from, it is defending the faith.
- What you are defending according to Paul is “the reason for the hope that you have.”
- **What is the hope that you have?** Our hope is Jesus Christ and everything that He means to us.
- Our hope is that we have the answers to those 3 questions listed in the Introduction.
- If we have the hope and the answers, we should want to share them with others and defend them.
- V. 16 – Paul ends v. 15 with “But do this with gentleness and respect...” as he goes into v. 16.
- When we are responding to people we must do so in a way that reflects Christ.
- When we conduct ourselves in those types of manners, we shame those trying to slander and attack us.
- If you stoop to the level of personal attacks and petty arguments, you have lost the battle.

Acts 17:16-23

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." ²¹(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) ²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: *TO AN UNKNOWN GOD*.

Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

- In this passage we see that Paul was in Athens waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him.
- Paul noticed that the city was full of idols and this concerned him greatly.
- So, he began to reason in the synagogues and in the marketplaces with the people who were there.

- Then a group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him before taking him to a meeting of the Areopagus.
 - The Areopagus was a council meeting of the elders of Athens and a court. It meant Ares Rock after the Greek god of war Ares. The Romans called it Mars Hill after the Roman god of war Mars.
 - The council asked Paul in v. 19, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”
 - We see in v. 23 that Paul stood up and began his sermon.
 - He pointed out that they had many altars and idols, they even had an altar “TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.”
 - Paul began to preach and he started the sermon by saying, “Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”
 - He went on to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to the members of the Areopagus.
 - The end of chapter 17 tells us that some of the people their chose to follow Paul and they believed the message that he preached about Jesus Christ.
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- Like Paul, we all are called to give a defense of our faith to anyone who may ask us.
 - Fortunately for us as Christians, we have the answers and the instruction manual.
 - We are living in times were Christians and our faith are being attacked at every turn.
 - People are asking a lot of questions, however **Do You Have the Answers?**
 - **Are you willing to take the time to sit down and “reason” with someone about your faith in Christ?**
 - We have the correct answers to these questions:
 1. **Does God exist?** Yes
 2. **What kind of God exists?** The God of the Bible, the Great “I am”, the Alpha and Omega
 3. **How may I know this God that exists?** Read the Bible, Pray, and Attend Church. Surrender your life in to His Son’s Jesus Christ’s hands and realize that you need more than yourself in this life.

*****CHALLENGE*****

Take a tract off of the table in the foyer and give it to someone this week. Be a doer of the word, not just a hearer.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Introduction to Romans

We will begin a study of the book of Romans this week.

Take a look at:

Who wrote it? When was it written? Who was it written to?
and What are the main topics discussed within the book?