

SERMON OUTLINE

'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'

Study - 5

'Sharing the gospel - the example of Peter'

1 Peter 3 v8 - 17

Key Text - v15

Key Phrase - "Be prepared....." Paul says something similar. See - Col 4 v5 - "Make the most of every opportunity."

Key Question - In what ways are we to be prepared?

1. THE QUESTION WHICH WE MUST BE PREPARED TO BE ASKED

Note - There are a number of Greek words which in English can be translated - 'answer'. We need to note two of these in particular:-

(i) Col 4 v6 - "know how to answer everyone"

The Greek word for 'answer' here, is - '*apokrinomai*' which is the answer which would be given to a very general question of inquiry. For example - 'Why do you go to church?'

(ii) 1 Pet 3 v15 - "always be prepared to give an answer"

The Greek word for 'answer' here, is - '*apologia*' which literally means - 'a defence presented in a court'. It's the answer given when our faith is attacked - questioned.

Note - The context here is that of persecution - suffering. See - v13 - 14a. When we are attacked - when our faith is questioned and we need to make a defence, Peter tells us 2 things:-

A. WE ARE NOT TO BE FRIGHTENED

See - v14b. Remember that Jesus is Lord - He is in control. See - v15a & Matt 10 v19

B. WE ARE TO BE EMBOLDENED

Behind the attack people are really searching for hope! See - v15b. Knowing this should embolden us!

2. THE ANSWER WHICH WE MUST BE PREPARED TO GIVE

Note - Peter here doesn't speak about what we are to answer, but about how we are to answer. See - v15c. Paul says the same thing. See - Col 4 v6. Key Point - It can be easy to win the argument, but at the same time we can so easily lose the person.

Think of Richard Dawkins - contemptuous and condescending! By the way in which he speaks he loses more people than he wins! We're not to be like that. We are to be respectful and gracious - that's how to win people!

Note - Peter in Acts 4 v1 - 22.

3. THE RESPONSE WHICH WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH

See - v16 & Acts 24 v16. People are always going to be looking for these things in our lives which will mar our testimony. We must strive to keep a clear conscience between God and man.

TWO KEY QUESTIONS:-

- 1. ARE WE LIVING A LIFE THAT IS WORTH QUESTIONING?**
- 2. DO WE HAVE AN ANSWER THAT IS WORTH HEARING?**