

PREPARED
(2) *Reliable Witness*

DEFENDING your **FAITH** without **LOSING** your **MIND!**

WHAT TO SAY when there's **LITTLE TIME** and **LITTLE INTEREST!**

1 Peter 3:15a...

But in your hearts **REVERE** 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.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO FOLLOW JESUS?

*I believe that Jesus died for **MY** sin and rose from the dead!*

*I believe that Jesus died for **MY** sin and rose from the dead!*

*But I don't believe that because the **BIBLE** says so... **IT'S BETTER THAN THAT...***

The Bible...

The **INFALLIBLE** but seemingly **INDEFENSIBLE** foundation of our faith!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND THE BIBLE!

The Foundation of our Faith... IS NOT... The Bible!

Christians take the **Old Testament** seriously... because **JESUS** took it seriously!

Matthew 5:17...

*"Do not think that I have come to **abolish** the Law or the Prophets;
I have not come to **abolish** them but to **FULFILL** them.*

Which of these **Two Statements** makes a more **Compelling Argument**...?

"I believe the story of Adam and Eve... because it's in the Bible!"

"I believe the story of Adam and Eve... because **JESUS** did!"

Our **GOAL** as Christians... is to get people as close to **JESUS**... as quick as possible!

YOU... Are only responsible to **EXPLAIN**... **DEFEND**... **DEFINE**...

The "**HOPE**" that is in **YOU**... as it relates to **YOUR** decision to **FOLLOW JESUS!**

1 Peter 3:15a...

But in your hearts **REVERE** 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.

BIBLE = BOOKS

Christians don't believe **THE GOSPELS** are **RELIABLE** because they're in **THE BIBLE**... Christians believe **THE GOSPELS** were included in **THE BIBLE** because they are considered **RELIABLE!**

THE GOSPELS (Matthew/Mark/Luke/John) were considered **RELIABLE**... because of **WHO** wrote them... and **WHEN** they were written!

70 A.D.

That's When...

THE JEWISH TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED!

QUESTION...

HOW COULD YOU NOT REFERENCE THIS PERIOD OF HISTORY?

ANSWER...

IT HADN'T HAPPENED YET!

THE GOSPELS (Matthew/Mark/Luke/John) were considered RELIABLE...
because of **WHO** wrote them... and **WHEN** they were written!

Furthermore Meaning...
WHO wrote them... and **WHEN** they wrote them...
Only gives it **AUTHENTICITY** and **CREDIBILITY!**

Here's how to **BE PREPARED** with the **BIBLE Questions...**

"I take the **OT** seriously... not because I can explain it all... not because it all makes sense to me... I take it seriously because **JESUS** did! And I take **JESUS** seriously because of **WHO** wrote about Him... And **WHEN** they wrote it!"

SUMMARY STATEMENT...

"I believe that Jesus died for **MY** sin and rose from the dead! And I don't believe it because **The Bible** says so... **IT'S BETTER THAN THAT!** I believe it because **Matthew... Mark... Luke... John... Peter... James and Paul** said so! And that's why **MY HOPE...** is in **JESUS!** That's why I have **Chosen...** to **Follow Jesus!?**

"I love the **BIBLE...** and I love the **SCRIPTURES...** (Buuuuut...) It's not my **FOUNDATION...** (It's Better Than That...) **A SINGLE EVENT IN HISTORY IS MY FOUNDATION IN CHRISTIANITY... THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST... IS MY FOUNDATION! THAT'S... WHY... I... HAVE... HOPE!"**
