

"BE READY TO ANSWER"

Part 2

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we must give an answer to questions of what we believe.
2. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
 - a. Sanctify = purify, set apart, consecrate
 - b. The Lord God = ASV "Christ as Lord" - authority - controller
 - c. Ready to Answer - not necessarily to answer every scoffer or insincere person - Jesus often met such questions with complete silence.
 - d. But for a person who sincerely asks an account we are to give an account.
3. This obligation to give an answer implies that we are good students of the Bible.
 - a. To give an answer to the hope that we have means we must understand the truth
 - b. It is said that every citizen in the ancient city of Athens was expected to keep himself sufficiently informed in civic affairs to be able to participate intelligently in any discussion of these matters.
 - c. Christians should be equally well informed in the things of God and as skill in their presentation.¹
4. How are we to answer these inquiries?
 - a. With Meekness and Fear
 - b. Not with bold defiance or arrogance and pride
 - c. Meekness means an attitude without scorn, haughtiness and bitterness.
 - d. Fear means to fear God and the judgment.
5. Let us be ready to answer people who sincerely ask us questions about our Hope !

Discussion

I. **QUESTIONS WE ARE OFTEN ASKED** - Summary of Part I

A. **Why Do You All have Elders ?**

1. Answer them by showing what the N.T. Teaches
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:1-13 - qualifications for Bishops and Deacons
 - b. Tit. 1:5-11 - Bishops and Elders used in same context - qualifications listed
 - c. Phil. 1:1 - bishops and deacons
2. This is *God's* arrangement for church organization

B. **Why do you all not use instrumental Music ?**

1. Here is one way to answer:
 - a. In our worship we must do what *God* has told us to do. - John 4:24
 - (1) Spirit = correct attitude, sincere
 - (2) Truth = correct action, what *God* has said to do
 - b. Col. 3:16 & Eph. 5:19
2. We cannot use instruments because there is not a verse in the N.T. that tells us to use it in our worship !
3. There is not a single example of an instrument being used in worship in the church of the N.T.

C. **"Oh you are the group that believes baptism is necessary for Salvation".**

1. How do you answer? Say a polite and kind "Yes".
2. We believe that the teachings of the N.T. clearly explain that baptism is necessary for our sins to be forgiven

- a. 1 Pet. 3:21
 - b. Mark 16:16 And Acts 2:38
3. Baptism is not the only requirement - not water salvation - but it is the final step to become a Christian.
 4. Ill. Combination lock - 3, 7, 2, 9 = combination followed and it opens. B.R.C.B=S

D. What about Speaking in Tongues?

1. The N.T. teaches that speaking in tongues would cease
 - a. 1 Cor. 13:8 "they shall cease"
 - b. The apostles [Acts 2] and Cornelius [Acts 10] and Paul [Acts 9] are the only ones who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. Since all of these men lived in the first century we do not have any way of receiving this gift of speaking in tongues.

II. MORE QUESTIONS WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED BY OTHERS

A. What about the Lord's Supper?

1. People will often ask why we take it every Sunday - or they are surprised to find out that we do partake of the Lord's Supper weekly.
2. Answer them in this way
 - a. The N.T. examples show that they partook of the L.S. every first day of the week.
 - b. Acts 20:7
 - c. 1 Cor. 11:24-25 "As oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" as often

- d. In the O.T. they were to remember the Sabbath - Ex. 20:8 - that was on the 7th day of the week - it came every 7 days
- e. In the N.T. I Cor. 16:1-2 contribution on 1st day of the week - how often do those other churches take a collection? Monthly, Quarterly, twice a year?
- f. Does not become meaningless - but takes on more meaning as we do it on a regular basis as God has commanded!

B. Do you all think you are the only ones going to heaven?

- 1. Do not give a yes or no answer
- 2. Believe about that just as you... "We must obey God in order to go to heaven."
- 3. Matt. 7:21-23 - not enough to be religious - Paul was religious, but wrong

C. Premillennialism:

- 1. You will hear things about the kingdom being established when Christ comes again. They talk about the rapture and the tribulation
- 2. This is a false doctrine invented by men. According to the scriptures Christ will not step foot on this earth again. The kingdom is the church and it was established in the first century.
- 3. 1 Thes. 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

4. 2 Pet 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

D. Women in leadership position

1. Many churches today allow women to preach, lead singing, and prayers - some ask us why we do not permit the women to do these things.
2. It is prohibited by 1 Tim. 2:12. Women are not to usurp authority over the man. A woman cannot teach a mixed audience, nor can she lead prayer in a mixed audience of men and women!
3. What about women leading in a chain prayer ?
 - a. This is a practice in which some participate and see nothing wrong
 - b. But the woman leading in a chain prayer is in violation of this passage
 - c. In fact in 1 Tim. 2:8 it says "I will therefore, that men pray everywhere,..."
 - d. The word men means a man in contrast to a woman - male not female
4. This was not a cultural matter it was an inspired prohibition.
5. There is no example in the N.T. of the women in the early church leading in the public worship of the church. It was always the men, never the women.
6. No person can change God's laws today. We must obey them.

E. What about Christmas and Easter ?

1. Folks are often surprised to learn that we have no special religious observance of the Christmas holiday. Such practices are so common place in most denominations that many people think it is odd when we don't sing Christmas songs, decorate the church building with seasonal ornaments, and conduct special worship services.
2. Be ready to explain - but do it in meekness and fear
 - a. We are thankful that Christ was born
 - (1) Without his birth then He could not have died for our sins
 - (2) We rejoice in the fulfilled prophecies surrounding His miraculous birth in Bethlehem
 - (3) Our gratitude for these blessings extends to every day of the year, not just one special holiday
 - b. Col. 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. "
 - (1) This means that we must have Bible authority for all of our practices.
 - (2) We are also warned that our worship becomes "vain" or worthless by "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).
 - (3) With these verses in mind, the question must be asked as to the origin of the religious observance of Christmas -- where did it come from?
 - c. A search of the New Testament reveals absolutely no indication of a special annual observance of the birth of Jesus. There is no command to do so, and the earliest Christians did not have a day set aside to celebrate His birth.

- d. Historical information indicates that Lyberius of Rome in 354 A. D first designated the date of December 25th as the birthday of Christ.
 - (1) Christmas celebration became an established practice centuries after the church began.
 - (2) This religious holiday originated with man, not God.
 - (3) This is the reason why we make no effort to engage in special religious activities on the day that men have appointed as Christmas.
3. A similar reason is why we do not observe Easter as a religious holiday
 - a. The word Easter is found 1 time in KJV - Acts 12:4 - it should have been translated "Passover" as it was the 29 other times it is found in the N.T.
 - b. The world celebrates this day as the day of resurrection of Christ - consider it as one of the most important religious days of the year !
 - c. What does the Bible teach us ?
 - (1) There is no Bible authority for it
 - (2) The church in the first century did not observe Easter as a special day
 - (3) It was introduced by man - not God
 - (4) Easter is a mixture of Paganism, Jewish religion, and Catholicism
 - (5) We observe the Lord's Supper every Sunday - not just one time a year - or two times a year
 - (6) It is at this time each Lord's day that we remember the resurrection of Christ and what it means to us !
4. We have no authority to observe a special day for the birth of Christ nor a special day for the resurrection of Christ. This is why we do not have any special services on these days.

Conclusion

1. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
 - a. Be a good student of the Bible so you can be ready to give an answer
 - b. This is often the way we interest people in the truth and can then teach them
2. Remember....
 - a. Be careful how you answer - don't make an enemy - keep the door open - remain friends even if you disagree
 - b. Never compromise the truth - always be firm and solid in your stand for what is right
3. Bro. N.B. Hardeman would say that he could state his convictions on any subject on a postcard and still have room to ask how the family was doing.
4. Some will not answer because
 - a. They are not sure of what they believe - unstable - unlearned -
 - b. They are ashamed of their beliefs and afraid of what others may say - We must not be ashamed of the truth!!!
5. 2 Tim. 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth."

1. Gospel Advocate Commentary Peter John and Jude - by Guy N. Woods p. 97-98 Nashville, Tennessee 1962- by Gospel Advocate Company

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