

# Apologetics For Your Own Soul

**Introduction** – Apologetics can be defined as the reasoned defense of the gospel and is often studied to prove the existence of God, the deity of Christ, the validity of scripture, and other proofs, to the unbeliever. But apologetics has an important role to play in the life of believers, for we are finite, imperfect, struggling men and women who need to grow in what we are to believe and how we are to live.

**A Simple Apologetic** (Psalm 19) – This psalm picks up where Genesis 1:1 left off. Neither attempt to prove the existence of the Triune God of Scripture. It simply assumes Him to be there, and declares His glory through His chosen means of revelation.

**The Revelation of God In Creation** (vv1-6) – Day after day there is an accumulation of knowledge of the glory of God from the heavens and the earth that transcends any human language. The sun is the central object, from our vantage point, and we watch as each day it proclaims God's glory and grace.

**The Revelation of God In His Law** (vv7-11) – Everyone has a sense of law and morality regardless of their commitment to God's written law (Rom 2:14-15). To those who humble themselves to God's law it is sweet, pure, and efficacious in making sense of the world.

**The Revelation of God in Our Conscience** (vv12-14) – Everyone wrestles with ultimate questions of who they are, why they are where they are, and these questions are related to the deep sense of conscience we all feel to do what is right (even if twisted by unbelief). Humbled before God, the believer knows that God knows his deepest desires and even his own sinful desires before they are manifest. He knows God is there.

**Why Do I Doubt?** – God has created human beings in such a way that knowledge of Him is inescapable. It is not simply a matter of there being good arguments for the existence of God. Rather, all people are experientially aware of God, whether they recognize that experience to be what it is or not, for “*in Him we live and move and have our being*” (Acts 17:28), “*All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things consist*” (Col 1:16b-17). This is not clear to every man and woman not because it is not clear, but because of what we do with the clear declarations.

**The Pattern of Fallen Man** (Rom 1:18-23) – It is not that they do not know that God exists; it is that they work hard to suppress this knowledge. The things that are made declare God's eternal power and Godhead. They know He is omnipotent and in control. But they refuse to acknowledge Him as God and they refuse to give Him thanks. Not only does this lead men into darkness and sin, but into foolishness as well.

**Foolishness in Unbelief** (1 Cor 1:18-24, 2:14) – Men in this darkened state need the gospel. But the gospel is foolishness to them. They think they are seeking after ‘the truth’ in signs and autonomous wisdom, but they are blind men walking down blind alleys that lead nowhere.

**A Doubting Believer** – A struggle to believe continues as we continue to battle Spirit and flesh, even as Christians (Gal 5:17). Your flesh still tempts you to doubt. The world still tempts you to doubt. The devil still tempts you to doubt. Sometimes those doubts come from outside influences, and other times because of unconfessed sin before God. Other times it simply is the state of being in this not-yet-glorified state.

**What Should I Do When I Doubt?** – Let scripture lead your reason. Let scripture guide your presuppositions (Gen 1:1, Prov 1:8, Psalm 14:1).

**What Should I Not Do?** – Do not fall into the ‘myth of neutrality’ trap. You cannot ask God to leave the room so that you can go over the arguments as to whether or not He exists again. There is no rational reasoning without God; there is only chaos. There are no morals without God; there are only chemical reactions and electrical pulses.

**Growth, Maturity, Wisdom, and Assurance** – This is particularly important to those in the church, especially the young people.

**God Brings Growth Like Milk** (1 Pet 2:1-2) – Growth in our faith, in our knowledge, in our application, is not a one-time deal. If you have read through the Bible, it is time to read through it again, and again, and again.

**God Gives Truth in a Person** (1 Tim 3:16) – Jesus said, “I am the Truth”. Truth has come to us in a Person. The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom therefore must always be connected to our relationship with this Person; and He is your Lord.

**God Gives Assurance Like Manna** (1 John 5:13) – God gives assurance by His Word and Spirit that we may continue to believe. Assurance is not a one-time deal. It is connected to walking in the Light, to confessing our sins, to persevering in our trials, and to giving thanks in everything. It is not connected to ‘flashy testimonies’.

**We Partake of Wisdom By Wisdom's Means** – We are washed with water by the Word and we partake of the Logos, Christ, at His table. His Word is proclaimed to us by His ordained men, and in the gathering He has called us to, He causes us to build one another up in the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Wisdom cannot be sought by climbing up on a mountain and staring at some guru. But wisdom, assurance, true knowledge of God and of His Son, can be found and strengthened at this mountain – the mountain of God to which you have come.